FRIDAY
December 13, 2024

BENGALURU
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OPPOSITION UNHAPPY

Cabinet approves Bills for simultaneous polls

NEWS » PAGE 17

VAIKOM STRUGGLE

Periyar memorial opens in Kerala

NEWS » PAGE 17

PRICE CORRECTION

Retail inflation eases slightly to 5.5% in Nov.

NEWS » PAGE 18

Gukesh is youngest world chess champ

The 18-year-old from Chennai beats Ding Liren of China in the final game; breaks the record held by Russian Garry Kasparov for nearly 4 decades

P.K. Ajith Kumar
SINGAPORE

On top of the world: D. Gukesh reacts after beating China's Ding Liren at the FIDE World Chess Championship in Singapore. PTI

History was made in the small island of Sentosa here on Thursday, as D. Gukesh became the youngest world chess champion after defeating Ding Liren of China in the final game of their match. The 18-year-old from Chennai broke the record held by the Russian Garry Kasparov for nearly four decades.

With his victory against the defending champion, which came after 58 moves, Gukesh took his points tally to 7.5. That was the requirement for a player to win the World title. The game was heading towards a draw in fact, until Ding made a fatal error on the 55th move with his rook. There was no coming back for the Chinese Grandmaster after that.

This was the first-ever World championship match contested by two Asian players.

Gukesh is only the third Asian to win the World championship. Viswanathan Anand, who is now a mentor for Gukesh, was the first, and Ding the second.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 16
EDITORIAL
» PAGE 14
MORE REPORTS
» PAGES 19 & 20

SC freezes suits on claims over places of worship

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday barred civil courts from registering fresh suits or passing orders in pending cases seeking to "reclaim" temples destroyed by Mughal "invaders".

A Special Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna passed the freeze order while agreeing to hear petitions questioning the validity of the Places of Worship Act of 1991, a Central law that preserves the character of religious places as they existed on August 15, 1947.

The Chief Justice said the bar on civil courts would include any orders to survey the shrines. At present, 18 suits concerning 10 shrines are pending in various civil courts.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 16

Six killed in massive fire in T.N. hospital

Fire and Rescue Services personnel shift patients from the City Hospital in Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, on Thursday night. G. KARTHIKEYAN

The Hindu Bureau
DINDIGUL

At least six persons, including a child and two women, were killed in a massive fire in a private four-storey hospital in Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, late on Thursday night. The fire engulfed the hospital building on Tiruchi Road.

Five of the victims were trapped in the hospital lift, and initial reports suggested they died of suffocation.

The police said 32 persons were rushed to the Government Hospital and three of them were on ventilator. The deceased are Suruli, 50, and Subbulakshmi, 45, a couple from Theni district; and Mariammal, 50, and her son Manimurugan, 28; Rajashekar, 35, and a girl child; all from Dindigul district.

Close to 100 people were trapped in the hospital when the fire broke out. Three Fire and Rescue Service units and 40 ambulances were pressed into service to rescue them.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 16

METROPLUS » PAGE 11

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Fire and ice — decoding the flashpoints of a spiced-up rivalry

The exchanges in the contests between Australia and India are a hidden sub-plot that bring out the best in both teams elevating the quality; the hosts having drawn level will be keen at gaining a psychological edge from the Head-Siraj episode as they seek to avenge the losses on the previous two occasions

GETTY IMAGES

R. Kaushik

To call this rivalry prickly will be an understatement. Even when the teams weren't entirely competitive against each other away from home - Australia didn't win a Test series in India for close to 35 years between the early 1970s and the mid-2000s and India had to wait 71 years to secure their maiden series triumph down under - there was plenty of needle and edge.

The Sunil Gavaskar walkout that wasn't at the MCG in 1980-81 readily springs to mind; as the little master has clarified more than once, it wasn't so much the umpiring decision as what was said by one of the Australians when he was walking off after being adjudged leg before that incensed him.

Tim Zoehrer versus Chandrakant Pandit in the tied Test in Chennai in 1986, the normally unflappable Rahul Dravid having a go at Michael Slater in Mumbai in 2000, Matthew Hayden inviting Ishant Sharma to the boxing ring during India's fractious tour in 2007-08 and Zaheer Khan lashing out at Brad Haddin in Bengaluru in 2008 are all fresh in memory, as also current head coach's shoulder charge of Shane Watson in Delhi in the same series which earned him a one-Test suspension and heralded the Test debut of M Vijay.

Mitchell Johnson poking the Virat Kohli beast in Adelaide in 2014, a costly mistake that was rewarded by the man who started the series as stand-in skipper and ended it as captain in his own right with four hundreds in as many Tests, and Tim Paine's constant and eventually expensive chirping during both the 2018-19 and 2020-21 series are as infamous as Steve Smith's brainfade in Bengaluru in 2017, when he looked towards the dressing room for clues on whether to opt for a review and Glenn Maxwell mocking the shoulder injury that kept Kohli out of the decider on that same tour in Dharamshala.

Biggest of them all

But there are no prizes for guessing what will remain the biggest controversy in Australia-India face-offs. Andrew Symonds accusing Harbhajan Singh of racist abuse, finding favour with match referee Mike Procter who banned the Indian for three Tests and appeals commissioner Justice John Hansen throwing out the ban in the first month of 2008 didn't just make for drama and spice of the kind one hopes is never repeated on a cricket field, it also threatened to ruin relations between the two countries, much like Bodyline had between England and Australia in 1932-33.

Symonds had made tenuous references to similar verbal attacks by the off-spinner on Australia's tour of India in 2007. The Indians vehemently denied that charge, but when Matthew Hayden told Harbhajan something along the likes of 'You've done it again' in Sydney, things moved at breakneck speed and the potential for damage was immense once the wheels of officialdom began to spin furiously. The Indians closed ranks behind the off-spinner, who had tormented Australia with 32 wickets in three Tests in the absence of Anil Kumble in the epochal series of 2001.

Kumble, now the captain of the Test squad, brought all his tact and diplomacy into play, saying all the right things without appearing confrontational, but making his point firmly and unequivocally. India lost the 'Monkeygate' Test in Sydney with less than five minutes left on the clock after Michael Clarke picked up the last three wickets in one over. India had been at the receiving end of numerous umpiring howlers, primarily from Steve Bucknor. If it was due to incompetence, it was incompetence of the worst, most unprecedented nature. Watching helplessly from the non-striker's end as wickets tumbled around him, India's captain waited for the Aussies' prolonged and animated celebrations to die down so that he could congratulate the winners, then came to the press conference and where he conducted himself with great dignity and signed off with the parting shot, "Only one team was playing in the spirit of the game."

Later on that tour, during the triangular series, Hayden called Harbhajan an 'obnoxious little weed'. One wondered whether, not when, this dust would settle. Of course, that magical entity called the Indian Premier League helped cool things down, Harbhajan sharing a dressing room with his two chief tormentors, Hayden and the late Symonds.

Million-dollar question

Sport needs some spice, some drama. It involves emotion and passion, and therefore these emotions and passions sometimes express themselves. To what extent they are allowed to do so is the million-dollar question. There is nothing wrong in having a word or three; these are grown-ups playing to win, at most costs, so to expect choir-boy behaviour will be naïve. So long as verbal exchanges are borderline civil, at worst, and don't transgress the amorphous line that can't be crossed, it's fine. No one wants to see automatons and robots and you'd expect players and their captains to know what can be done and what must not be. That lends colour and atmosphere too. Some of the greatest sledges in the history of the sport have attained that status not because they have been abusive but because of the sharpness of wit, the presence of mind in the heat of the battle, to fire a barb devoid of malice, but with the power to drive the point home.

Like Shane Warne vs Daryll Cullinan, for example. It's no secret that the great leg-spinner repeatedly had the South African's number, even sending him to a sports psychologist to rid him of the Warne demons prior to their tour of Australia in 1997-98. On the next tour, four years later, when Cullinan came out to bat, Warne lipped from the slip cordon, "Now Daryll, don't you dare get out, I've been waiting four years for this opportunity to you again."

To which Cullinan deadpanned instantaneously, "It looks like you've spent it eating too."

Warne, ever the sport, acknowledged the repartee though that didn't stop him tormenting Cullinan with the ball. Wouldn't the folklore of cricket be poorer without this exchange?

Much of the spoken word otherwise, however, is characterised by expletives and cuss words, and India vs Australia is no different.

As recently as last weekend, Travis Head and Mohammed Siraj got into a verbal pow-wow in Adelaide, the latest episode in the multi-layered history of India-Australia showdowns. Head was on to a good thing at his home venue, the Adelaide Oval, Siraj was chomping at the bit with the second new pink ball in his hands. By the time India took the new ball, Head was well past his hundred and positively buzzing. He smashed Siraj for a four, then took a good delivery homing in on his stumps and whip-deposited it over deep backward square-leg for the most extraordinary of sixes. Till the ball made contact with the left-hander's bat, it had the potential to end up with a 'W'. Disdainfully, with no regard for reputation or quality, Head dismissed it from his presence. If Siraj didn't feel insulted, he should have. Fact - he did.

Siraj scattered Head's stumps next ball, then gave him the kind of going-away gift fast bowlers reserve for pesky batters. In some ways, it's a backhanded compliment, a grudging concession which might mean, 'Hey, you're not so bad after all'. Not everyone sees it that way. Head most certainly didn't. He reacted, mouthed off, used words that he said later he was ashamed. You didn't need to be an expert in lip-reading to figure out what he said to Siraj. One isn't sure what Siraj had said in the first place to provoke Head's extraordinary tirade but Head's reaction was enough to rile up the fans, for Siraj to be subjected to boos and screams of an Adelaide Oval crowd that suddenly found that it was as much fun to have a go at a player from the opposition as it was to applaud its own heroes.

At the end of it all, Siraj was fined 20% of his match fee, Head let off with a 'severe reprimand' and both attracted a penalty of one demerit point each. This, however, could only be the beginning of the story. It will be no surprise is Siraj is singled out by spectators in Brisbane, the venue of the third Test, at the 'G' (as the Melbourne Cricket Ground is called) and in Sydney over the next four weeks when the series wends towards its denouement.

Fiercely proud as they are, Australia's cricketers and their loyal supporters - which includes a media that went from questioning to carping within three days, once victory was secured in Adelaide - haven't taken kindly to being vanquished for two series on the trot in their own backyard. In 2018-19, they sought refuge in the fact that David Warner and Smith were suspended due to their culpability in Sandpapergate but there was no such respite two years later, when with less half the XI that started the first Test in Adelaide, India completed a miraculous comeback at the Gabbatoir in Brisbane. Australia have forever looked for an edge, any edge, that would serve their common purpose, which now is to avenge the defeats of the last two series here.

Flat and listless and bereft of drive and ambition in Perth when they were humiliated by 295 runs, the Australia of old has resurfaced, snarling and sniping and somehow clambering on the moral high horse when none exists. The transformation in the team hasn't been lost on the public. These next four weeks, they should be interesting. And maybe that will be the understatement to beat all understatements.

THE GIST

- As recently as last weekend, Head and Siraj got into a verbal pow-wow in Adelaide, the latest episode in the multi-layered history of India-Australia showdowns
- No prizes for guessing what will remain the biggest controversy in the face-offs: Symonds accusing Harbhajan of racist abuse

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City's forest cover shrinks due to encroachments, threatens ecology

K.C. Deepika
BENGALURU

A searing summer and a water crisis that shook citizens put the spotlight on the ecology of Bengaluru. Like its lakes, the forest area here is not able to escape the threat of encroachment. The five taluks of the bustling city - Bengaluru North, Yelahanka, Bengaluru East, Anekal, and Bengaluru South - have over 26,077 acres of forest land.

According to the Karnataka Forest Ministry, over 2,665 acres of forest land in these taluks have been encroached upon. Forest Minister Eshwar B. Khandre made this submission in response to a question in the recently held council.

Anekal has 10,842 acres of forest area, the highest among the five taluks. It is followed by Bengaluru South and Yelahanka. With its highest forest cover, Anekal is the most affected taluk in terms of encroachments. The second most affected taluk is Bengaluru South. Out of 1,485 acres of forest land, Bengaluru East has over 573 acres of it encroached. In the last five years, Bengaluru has reported 163 forest encroachment cases, and 28 have been cleared, said Mr. Khandre. Environmentalists and experts said the rate at which these forest lands were encroached should ring alarm bells. T.V. Ramachandra from the Energy and Wetlands Research Group, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), who has been flagging the depleting vegetation cover of the city for many years, said, "The spatial extent of forests is better in Delhi, Mumbai, and Hyderabad compared to Bengaluru."

Vegetation cover includes forests too, and there has been a reduction in the vegetation cover from 68% in 1973 to less than 4% in 2023, he pointed out. "Forest ecosystems act as lungs of the city by providing oxygen and also help in the removal of carbon and groundwater recharge. Our studies have shown that in a region dominated by native species of forests, percolation or infiltration of precipitation ranges between 58% and 65%, and waterbodies in the region have water all months during the year. When we degrade the region with forest cover less than 30%, water retention in waterbodies is only during monsoon, which highlights that forests of native species aid in sustaining water through infiltration of the substantial part of precipitation," he said, explaining the impact of reduced forest cover on a region.

In figures

Taluk	Forest area	Encroachment
Bengaluru North	1,648 acres 27 guntas	104 acres 12.18 guntas
Yelahanka	4,067 acres 17 guntas	81 acres 39.49 guntas
Bengaluru East	1,485 acres 38 guntas	573 acres 10.51 guntas
Anekal	10,842 acres 6 guntas	959 acres 72.15 guntas
Bengaluru South	8,033 acres 24 guntas	945 acres 27.2 guntas
Total	**26,077 acres 12 guntas**	**2,665 acres 11.5 guntas**

In the last five years, the city has reported 163 forest encroachment cases, and 28 have been cleared

Man dies in road accident near Hassan

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

A person died after the bike he was riding was hit by a car near Kittane Gadi on Hassan - Mysuru Road, near Hassan, on Wednesday. The deceased was identified as Manje Gowda, 60, of Sathenahlli in Hassan taluk. He died on the spot following a serious head injury. His son Sridhar filed a complaint with the Gorur police.

927 villages in State don't have 4G network, says Ministry of Communications

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

The Ministry of Communications in the Rajya Sabha has recently presented data that showed that as of September 30, 2024, 927 villages in Karnataka still do not have the 4G network.

The information was disclosed in response to questions raised by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Narayana K. from Karnataka.

The Ministry highlighted the ongoing efforts to bridge the digital divide under the 4G Saturation Project scheme, executed through the Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN), previously known as the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

The reply stated that so far 175 villages in Karnataka have 4G services under the scheme. This has been achieved through the installation and commissioning of 144 mobile towers across the State.

In July 2022, the Union Cabinet approved a project aimed at extending 4G mobile services to uncovered villages across the country at a total cost of ₹26,316 crore. The initiative is designed to provide 4G connectivity to 24,680 villages situated in remote and challenging terrains. It also includes a provision to cover 20% of additional villages to address scenarios such as rehabilitation, the establishment of new settlements, or the withdrawal of services by existing operators.

Earlier, the government said that the project would upgrade 6,279 villages having 2G or 3G connectivity to 4G, ensuring faster and more reliable mobile services. It plans to execute the project through BSNL, using an indigenously developed 4G technology stack, and it will be funded through the DBN.

Constable booked for submitting fake certificates

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Vidhana Soudha police have registered a forgery case against a police constable for allegedly submitting fake degree certificates to get the job of a police sub-inspector under the sports quota.

He was identified as Paigambar Nadaf, a police constable attached to Bharati Nagar police station.

The accused was selected for a constable post in 2021 under the sports quota, and he was among the nine constables considered for promotion in July 2024 for the sub-inspector post under the same quota.

One of the requirements for the promotion is that the candidates must have completed graduation. The accused had submitted copies of the degree from Mysore University.

However, the University sent a report denying that it had not issued any such certificate to Nadaf and termed it as fake. Based on the report, the accused has been suspended and a case has been registered at the jurisdictional VIdhana Souidha police. Following a complaint by Sahana B. M., section Superintendent (Recruitment Cell), city police commissioner's office, the police booked a case against Paigambar.

The police have launched further probe into the matter.

Three concerts in city on December 15

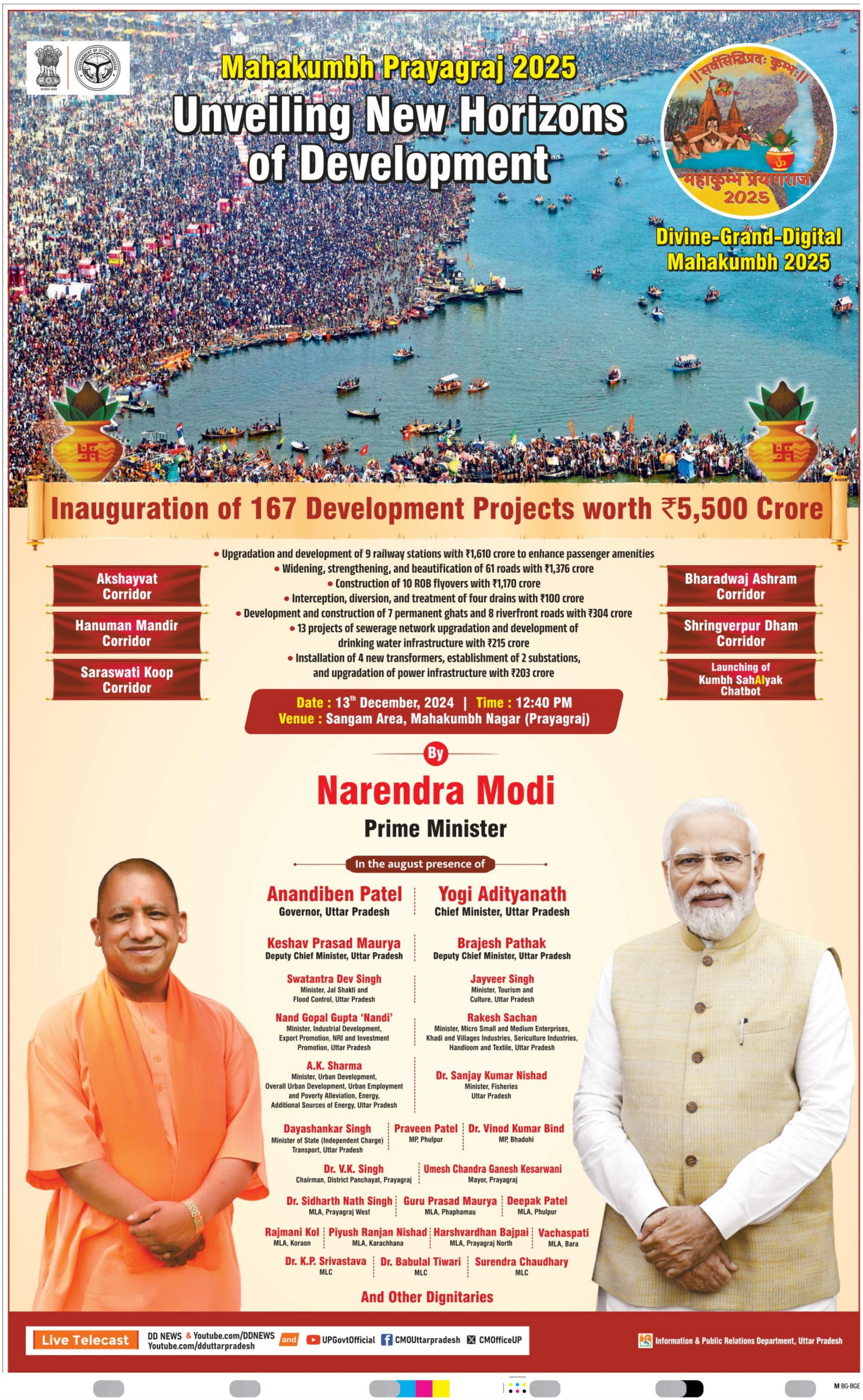
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Gayana Samaja is organising a musical concert here in the city on Sunday, December 15. Ms. Anjali Sharma will present a vocal recital, with Vishwajith V. Mathur on violin, Sunil Subramanya on mridangam, and Karthik Mani on ghatam.

The concert will be held at Gayana Samaja, Krishna Rajendra (K.R.) Road, from 5.30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Another musical concert will be presented by *Sapthak* Bangalore at the Indian Institute of World Culture (IIWC), Sri B.P. Wadia Road in Basavanagudi at 5.30 p.m. Dhruv Hangal from Bengaluru will be on the flute, accompanied by Kiran Yavagal from Hubli on tabla.

The third concert will be presented by the Nadasurabhi Cultural Association. The concert will be held at St. John's Medical College campus, Koramangala, from 4.15 p.m.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What is Disease X and why the world should prepare for it

COVID-19 is regarded as the first instance of a real Disease X. When SARS-CoV-2 emerged as an unknown pathogen causing a global pandemic, it exemplified the scenario that Disease X was meant to represent — an unpredictable, novel threat requiring rapid global response and adaptation

C. Aravinda

Swab samples being taken for a COVID-19 test. File THE HINDU

The story so far

The recent outbreak reported in the first week of December 2024 in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which has claimed over 400 lives and remains unclassified, has raised concerns that it could be an instance of Disease X. This unsettling event has reignited discussions about Disease X. Disease X is not an actual but a hypothetical disease. The World Health Organization (WHO) coined the term in 2018 to describe an unknown pathogen that could potentially unleash a devastating epidemic or pandemic. It was conceptualised by the WHO to prepare for future outbreaks that are difficult to predict or identify. While investigations continue to determine the cause in Congo, the outbreak underscores the importance of Disease X.

WHO's priority list of pathogens?

COVID-19 is widely regarded as the first instance of a real Disease X after the WHO introduced the concept in 2018. When SARS-CoV-2 emerged as an unknown pathogen causing a global pandemic, it exemplified the scenario that Disease X was meant to represent – an unpredictable, novel threat requiring rapid global response and adaptation. The concept of Disease X traces its origins in the aftermath of the West African Ebola epidemic of 2014-2016, which resulted in over 11,000 deaths and revealed significant gaps in global epidemic preparedness. After the outbreak, the WHO brought together scientists and public health experts to address how future outbreaks of similar scale could be prevented.

The WHO's priority list of pathogens is a strategic tool published in 2018 that is designed to focus global attention and resources on the most serious infectious disease threats. This list identifies diseases that have epidemic or pandemic potential for which there are insufficient or no medical countermeasures such as vaccines or treatments. The need for such a list arises from the urgency to guide research and development, allocate funding, and enhance preparedness. It helps policymakers, researchers, and health organisations prioritise efforts toward controlling the diseases. The current list (not exhaustive) includes Ebola virus disease, Marburg virus disease, Lassa fever, Nipah virus, Rift Valley fever, Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever, Zika virus, and Disease X. Each of these pathogens has been flagged due to factors like high mortality rates, potential for rapid spread, and the lack of adequate preventive or therapeutic options.

What is Disease X?

Disease X is not a specific illness but a placeholder for an unpredictable and as-yet-undiscovered pathogen capable of sparking a global health crisis. The WHO included it in the Blueprint for Priority Diseases in 2018 to focus on the risks of emerging diseases that science has yet to encounter. The term sits at the intersection of two categories (among four) popularised by Donald Rumsfeld's matrix: "known unknowns" (threats we are aware of but cannot fully understand) and "unknown unknowns" (threats we are not aware of and understand). Disease X embodies both, as it acknowledges the likelihood of a future pandemic without specifying when, where, or how it might arise.

The potential culprits behind Disease X are varied. It originates from Pathogen X, which could be a virus, a bacterium, a parasite, fungi, helminths, or even a prion – a misfolded protein capable of causing severe neurological diseases. Historical data supports this uncertainty. Since 1940 (from where authentic records are available), researchers have identified more than 300 emerging infectious diseases, about 70% of which have zoonotic origins, meaning they are transmitted from animals to humans. This process, known as zoonotic spillover, is often linked to human encroachment on wildlife habitats, deforestation, and the intensification of agriculture. Meanwhile, the growing risks of antimicrobial resistance, bioterrorism, and accidental lab leaks add further layers of unpredictability.

Patterns in emerging diseases

While the exact nature of Disease X remains unknown, epidemiological patterns provide critical insights into how new diseases emerge and spread. The emergence of viruses such as HIV, SARS, MERS, and Ebola was closely linked to ecological disruptions caused by human activity. Deforestation, urbanisation, and climate change have pushed humans and wildlife into closer contact, increasing the likelihood of pathogen transmission. Epidemiologists estimate that over 1.7 million undiscovered viruses exist in wildlife, with hundreds of thousands potentially capable of infecting humans. The frequency of novel outbreaks has also increased significantly since the mid-20th century, reflecting a combination of environmental, demographic, and global factors.

The interconnectedness of our world makes it easier for localised outbreaks to escalate into pandemics. While epidemiology cannot predict the exact moment or source of Disease X, it can help identify high-risk regions and behaviours

Regions with high biodiversity and inadequate healthcare systems, like the Congo Basin, are particularly vulnerable. The interconnectedness of our world, with frequent international travel and trade, makes it easier for localised outbreaks to escalate into pandemics, as seen with COVID-19. While epidemiology cannot predict the exact moment or source of Disease X, it can help identify high-risk regions and behaviours that increase the likelihood of its emergence.

Challenges of predicting Disease X

Forecasting the next Disease X is daunting, as its emergence depends on numerous unpredictable factors. Zoonotic diseases are the most likely source, given their history of driving major epidemics. However, other scenarios, such as pathogens mutating to evade treatment, laboratory mishaps, or deliberate biological attacks, cannot be ruled out. Climate change is also reshaping disease transmission dynamics, expanding the range of vector-borne illnesses like malaria and dengue fever while pushing pathogens to adapt to new hosts and environments.

The sheer number of potential pathogens adds to the complexity. Scientists estimate that only a fraction of viruses capable of infecting humans have been identified, leaving a vast pool of unknown threats. Genomic sequencing and artificial intelligence are beginning to play an important role in narrowing this vast field of possibilities, but even with these tools, predicting the exact origin, timing, and behaviour of Disease X remains out of reach. What is certain, however, is that the conditions that gave rise to pandemics like COVID-19 and SARS continue to exist, making the emergence of Disease X a question of when, not if.

At the heart of preparation is the need for robust surveillance systems to detect new outbreaks early. Advances in genomic sequencing, artificial intelligence, and real-time data sharing are essential tools for developing diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines. Strengthening healthcare infrastructure, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, is also crucial. Organisations like the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) are now investing in "prototype pathogen" platforms that can be adapted to target unknown diseases within 100 days of their identification.

Need for global collaboration

Fighting Disease X will require an unprecedented level of international cooperation. The WHO's ongoing efforts, such as its list of priority pathogens and the proposed Pandemic Treaty, aim to foster a unified global response to health emergencies. These initiatives recognise that pandemics do not respect borders and that fragmented efforts will be insufficient to counter a threat as elusive as Disease X. Governments must work together to share data, pool resources, and ensure equitable access to diagnostics, treatments, and vaccines.

The outbreak in the DRC serves as a sobering reminder of the risks the world faces. Disease X is no longer a distant hypothetical but an urgent call to action. By strengthening public health systems, investing in research and innovation, and fostering global solidarity, the world can prepare for the unpredictable and safeguard future generations from the devastating consequences of the next pandemic. Frameworks like the Nagoya Protocol, which ensure equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources, could be expanded to include biological materials like pathogens. It would promote global collaboration, ensuring fair access to research and medical countermeasures during outbreaks. A novel disease anywhere is a threat to everyone.

(Dr. C. Aravinda is an academic and public health physician. The views expressed are personal. aravindaaiimsjr10@hotmail.com)

A dengue prevention camp in Chennai. FILE PHOTO

Tackling the challenge of seasonal illnesses

Serena Josephine M.

In October 2024, Tamil Nadu's State Public Health Laboratory (SPHL) took a closer look at cases of fever caused by respiratory viruses. An analysis of 326 respiratory samples from patients with influenza-like illness (ILI) across 38 districts found that 75.4% of respiratory illnesses in children and adults were caused by Influenza A and B viruses. Respiratory Syncytial Virus A and B were also commonly detected among patients with ILI.

Every year, seasonal illnesses keep doctors and public health authorities busy. But certain disease patterns have become clearer. "We have observed some obvious patterns. One is in vector-borne diseases that have a very specific trend. It starts after August and goes up to January. This has been the trend for the last three years. There may be a small rise from one year to another, but the trend is continuing. The increases may be due to erratic rainfall or more rains," T. S. Selvavinayagam, Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, said.

Next are acute diarrhoeal diseases, occurring in and around May. "Cases peak from April to June. We have some clusters as well due to local water issues," he said. "Airborne diseases – respiratory infections – rise during the winter season. There is a small rise in seasonal flu in March too. But otherwise, cases are seen throughout the year," Dr. Selvavinayagam added. This year, mumps was a cause for concern.

An analysis of 326 respiratory samples from patients with influenza-like illness across 38 districts found that 75.4% of respiratory illnesses were caused by Influenza A and B viruses. Respiratory Syncytial Virus A and B were also commonly detected

There has been a steady flow of patients with fever to hospitals over the last few months. Suresh Kumar, consultant, infectious diseases, Apollo Hospitals, said cases of H1N1 and H3N2 were common. "We are seeing more cases of chikungunya. Cases have been surfacing over the last three to four months and have picked up in the last few weeks. Fever cases started to rise following rains in November," he said. A lot of patients who had flu and cold were experiencing lack of taste and loss of appetite, he said.

Janani Sankar, medical director, Kanchi Kamakoti CHILDS Trust Hospital, said: "We saw several cases of mycoplasma infections over the last month. This does not respond to commonly prescribed antibiotics. These infections are a cause for concern this season," she said.

A fever surveillance camp. FILE PHOTO

Sweetened drinks 'increase risk of cardiovascular diseases'

R. Sujatha

A large-scale study in Sweden has suggested that consuming sweetened drinks significantly increases the risk of serious cardiovascular disease. An occasional treat is acceptable, though, the study has added.

Researchers studying the effects of the consumption of different types of sugar on health risks have found that generally higher sugar intake raises the risk of certain cardiovascular diseases. Sugary drinks in particular carry higher risks. Extremely low sugar consumption is also associated with poorer cardiovascular health. The study indicated that the lowest risks of cardiovascular diseases were found among people who ate occasional treats. The scientists advocate avoiding fizzy drinks, since such beverages have excessive added sugar that can increase the risk of stroke or aneurysm, heart failure, and atrial fibrillation.

Source of the sugar

"The most striking finding from our study is the divergent relationship between different sources of added sugar and cardiovascular disease risk," said Suzanne Janzi, PhD candidate at Lund University and corresponding author of the article in *Frontiers in Public Health*. "This surprising contrast highlights the importance of considering not just the amount of sugar consumed, but its source and context," Ms. Janzi said.

The lowest risks of cardiovascular diseases were found among people who ate occasional treats. GETTY IMAGES

The scientists collected data from two other studies : the Swedish Mammography Cohort and the Cohort of Swedish Men, which included diet questionnaires administered in 1997 and 2009, allowing for monitoring participants' diets over time.

They looked at three classes of sugar consumption – toppings such as honey, a pastry as a treat, or sweetened beverages such as fizzy drinks – and seven cardiovascular diseases: two different types of stroke, heart attacks, heart failure, aortic aneurysms, atrial fibrillation, and aortic stenosis.

The participants were monitored until they died, were diagnosed with one of the cardiovascular diseases, or reached the end of the follow-up period in 2019. The research found that during the study period, 25,739 participants were diagnosed with a cardiovascular disease.

Sweet drinks increase risk

The data helped to break down how the different types of sugar intake affect the risk of different cardiovascular diseases. The analysis showed that consuming more sweetened drinks significantly increased the risk of ischaemic stroke, heart failure, atrial fibrillation, and abdominal aortic aneurysm.

"Liquid sugars found in sweetened beverages make you feel less full, potentially leading to overconsumption," Ms. Janzi said.

Different cardiovascular diseases were affected differently by increased sugar intake, possibly because consuming additional sugar affected participants' individual risk profiles differently. Increased sugar in general raised the risk of ischaemic stroke and abdominal aortic aneurysm, as well as increasing the risk of heart failure in participants with a normal BMI. However, the highest risks of a negative health outcome arose in the lowest intake category for treats. Occasional treats were associated with better outcomes than no treats at all.

Low intake not beneficial

"While our observational study cannot establish causation, these findings suggest that extremely low sugar intake may not be necessary or beneficial for cardiovascular health," she added.

In India, the study resonates with our food habits, which include a large consumption of sweets and carbohydrates. "Carbohydrates are not inherently harmful. One should pay attention to the type and the amount consumed, which can increase the risk of heart disease," said G. Sengottuvelu, clinical lead, Structural Heart Disease Programme at Apollo Hospitals.

"Excess carbohydrates in the form of sugars and refined carbs may be more harmful than dietary fats. Added sugars, sugary beverages, or processed foods can contribute to obesity and metabolic syndrome, which is linked with insulin resistance, high triglycerides, and low HDL (good cholesterol)," he added.

They are associated with increased visceral fat deposition and accelerated atherosclerosis. Insulin resistance causes systemic inflammation with progression of plaque formation, the specialist explained.

Government Omandurar Multi Super Speciality Hospital dietician Meenakshi Bajaj said though the Indian dietary guidelines limit added sugars to 10% of the daily energy requirement, some dieticians recommend stricter restrictions given Indians' disposition to metabolic diseases. "Traditional Indian sweets contain not just sugars but also nuts, milk, seeds, trans fats, and saturated fats that prevent overconsumption, but this is not so with sugar-sweetened beverages. They could be replaced with herb infused water, tender coconuts, and fresh unsweetened home-made juices," she added.

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Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

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Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

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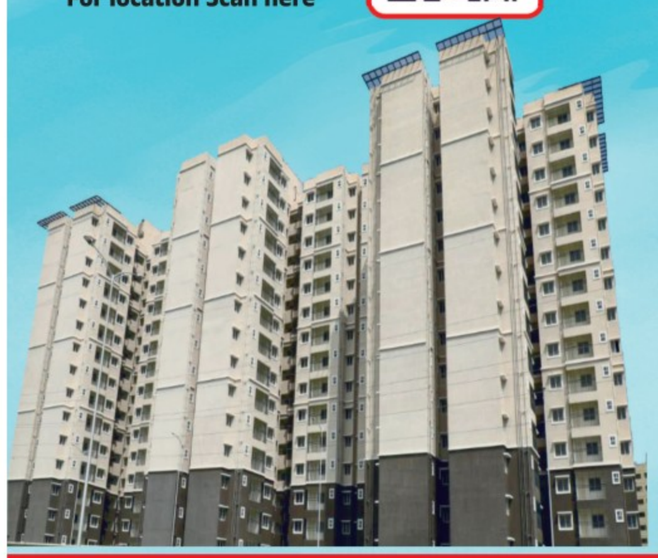

Highlights of Kaniminike Projects

- Kaniminike Housing Projects Phase-1,2,3,4 & 5 spread over an extent of 50 acres and with greenery all around.
- Situated on elevated and green surroundings.
- Modern technology and green environment concept incorporated in construction.
- 1 km from Bangalore-Mysore Highway.
- Less than 3 km from the Challaghatta Metro Station.
- RERA certified.
- At present water supply through borewells and it is proposed to provide permanent water supply from Manchanabele Dam through RWS Department.
- Connecting BM Express way through Judicial Layout.
- Nearby to Narayana Gurukul University, Christ University and Delhi Public School.
- Metro Station proposed at Hejjala Toll Plaza.
- 2 km to Hejjala Railway Station.

Thippasandra
(1 BHK Flats available)

Highlights of Thippasandra Project

- This Project is in the developed J.P.Nagar 9th Phase
- It is surrounded by Layouts of BDA and Layouts approved by BDA
- Permanent connection of electricity is given
- It is 1 km from South Forum Mall and Doddakallasandra Metro Station
- Near to Sri Kumarans School and K.S.I.T. College
- Presently water supply is through Bore Wells and BWSSB water supply facility will be created in the near future

1 BHK flats are available in the price range of Rs. 14.50 Lakhs in Thippasandra

Bangalore Development Authority is organising a 'Flat Mela' for allotment of the Flats/Houses on 14.12.2024 from 9.00 AM to 5.00 PM Near **'Kaniminike Residential Complex'.** Those who are interested in purchasing a BDA Flat/House can participate in this Mela and pay the initial deposit by DD/online transfer for the Flat/House of their choice and receive the Temporary allotment letter on the spot.

On the spot loan facility by Banks is arranged.

Shri D.K. Shivakumar, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister greeting Shri N.A. Haris, Hon'ble MLA, Shanthinagar Assembly Constituency and Chairman, BDA

For further information contact:
Kaniminike: **6362512234 / 8747877469** Thippasandra: **7795869883**
Website: **www.housing.bdabangalore.org** OR **www.bda.karnataka.gov.in**

Bangalore Development Authority
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020.

ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಡಾ. ಬಿ.ಆರ್. ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ

ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು

ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ.ಕೆ. ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು

ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿಯವರ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳು
2024-2025ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನ

ಸ್ವಯಂ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ನೇರಸಾಲ–ಕುರಿ ಸಾಕಾಣಿಕೆ

ಸ್ವಯಂ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ನೇರಸಾಲ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ವಿಧಾನಸಭಾ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ **ಕುರಿ ಸಾಕಾಣಿಕೆ** ಉದ್ದೇಶಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಸಹಾಯಧನ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಾಲ ಮಂಜೂರು ಮಾಡಲಾಗುವುದು.

- ಘಟಕ ವೆಚ್ಚ : ರೂ. 1.00 ಲಕ್ಷ
- ಸಹಾಯಧನ : ರೂ. 50,000/–
- ಸಾಲ: ರೂ. 50,000/–

ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುವವರು ಉದ್ದೇಶ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಇಚ್ಛಿಸಿದಲ್ಲಿ ನೇರವಾಗಿ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ https://swdcorp.karnataka.gov.in/ADCLPortal ನಲ್ಲಿ ಉದ್ದೇಶ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಮಾಡಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಅಥವಾ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕಛೇರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮನವಿ ಪತ್ರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಡಾ. ಹೆಚ್. ಸಿ. ಮಹದೇವಪ್ಪ, ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಸಚಿವರು ಹಾಗೂ ಡಾ. ಬಿ.ಆರ್. ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮದ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರಾದ **ಶ್ರೀ ಆರ್. ಸಂಪತ್ ರಾಜ್** ರವರೊಂದಿಗೆ ನಿಗಮದ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಚರ್ಚಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದು.

ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ :
29.12.2024 ರವರೆಗೆ

https://sevasindhu.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೇರವಾಗಿ
ಅಥವಾ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಸಹಯೋಗದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಹಾ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು.

KARNATAKA One · ಗ್ರಾಮ ಒನ್ · BANGALORE One

2023–24 ಮತ್ತು 2024–25 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಿರುವವರು ಮತ್ತೊಮ್ಮೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆ ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸ್ವಾವಲಂಬಿ ಸಾರಥಿ–ಫುಡ್ ಕಾರ್ಟ್

ಸ್ವಾವಲಂಬಿ ಸಾರಥಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ **ಫುಡ್ ಕಾರ್ಟ್** ಉದ್ದೇಶಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್‌ಗಳ ಸಹಯೋಗದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಯೋಜನೆ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನ.

- ಸಾಲದ ಮೊತ್ತಕ್ಕೆ ಶೇ.75 ರಷ್ಟು ಅಥವಾ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ. 4.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ ಸಹಾಯಧನ
- ಉಳಿದ ಮೊತ್ತ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಸಾಲ

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ನಿಗಮದ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರುಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ ಅಥವಾ ನಿಗಮಗಳ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಅಥವಾ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಮಿತ್ರ ಏಕೀಕೃತ ಎಸ್.ಸಿ / ಎಸ್.ಟಿ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ 9482–300–400 ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು.

ನುಡಿದಂತೆ ನಡೆದಿದ್ದೇವೆ... · ಶಕ್ತಿ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರಿಗೆ ಬಸ್ ಪ್ರಯಾಣ ಉಚಿತ · ಗೃಹಜ್ಯೋತಿ ಪ್ರತಿ ಮನೆಗೆ 200 ಯೂನಿಟ್ · ಅನ್ನಭಾಗ್ಯ 10 kg · ಗೃಹಲಕ್ಷ್ಮಿ ₹2000 · ಯುವನಿಧಿ ₹3000 | ₹1500

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ಆಯುಕ್ತರು
ಸಮಾಜ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಪ್ರಧಾನ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು
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ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು
ಡಾ. ಬಿ.ಆರ್. ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ

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THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of sentences commuted by Joe Biden

1500 President Joe Biden is commuting the sentences of roughly 1,500 people who were released from prison and placed on home confinement during the coronavirus pandemic and is pardoning 39 Americans convicted of non-violent crimes. AFP

Naxalites killed in encounters this year in the Bastar division

215 Seven Naxalites including two women were killed in an encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district on Thursday, a senior police official said. With this incident, at least 215 Naxalites have been killed this year in the Bastar division of the State, as per the police. PTI

U.S. producer inflation shows biggest year-on-year increase

0.40 in per cent. U.S. producer inflation climbed in November, data showed Thursday, logging its biggest year-on-year increase since February 2023. The producer price index came in at 0.4% last month, seasonally adjusted, the Labour Department said. AFP

Number of casualties as migrant boat sinks off Tunisia

9 Tunisia's coastguard has recovered the bodies of nine migrants while six others are still missing after their boat sank off the Tunisian coast, a judicial official said on Thursday, in the latest boat disaster in the Mediterranean. The coastguard has so far rescued 27 people who were on the boat. REUTERS

Fatalities in the Manipur conflict since May 2023

250 A Delhi-based Meitei organisation urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ban all Kuki militant groups in Manipur and to stop alleged appeasement of the Kukis under the name of 'Suspension of Operations' (SoO). PTI

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Beijing's war against air pollution

Beijing in 2015 had pollution levels similar to those in Delhi today. However, through coordinated effort over several years, Beijing reduced its pollution by one-third between 2013 and 2017; by learning from Beijing's approach, Delhi can implement effective strategies to tackle its air pollution problem

EXPLAINER

Rohit Azad
Shouvik Chakraborty

Beijing, with a yearly average air quality index (AQI) of 144, was as polluted in 2015 as Delhi is today (Delhi's average is 155 for 2024). But in the interim, Beijing has managed to cut its pollution level by one-third with the most significant fall spanning between 2013 and 2017 (Chart 1). To be sure, Beijing's pollution control programme dates back to 1998 which laid the foundation for this aggressive last phase of the programme, which was termed a "war against air pollution".

Why discuss Beijing in the context of Delhi?

Beijing is the capital of an emerging economy, as is Delhi. So, if Beijing could manage what it did at its stage of development, Delhi could and needs to, as well.

There are many similarities between Beijing in 2013 and Delhi today. Chart 2 compares the sources of pollution for the two cities.

For Delhi, we have used the winter months' data because that is the most updated emission inventory available. Moreover, much like Beijing, the regional contribution to pollutants by neighbouring areas/States of the national capital region (NCR) is also high, especially during the winter months. While local emissions need to be controlled, without a concerted collective effort by the entire NCR region, just as Beijing achieved, it would be difficult to win this battle against air pollution.

What did Beijing do?

With rapid economic growth in Beijing, the ambient concentration of pollutants increased rapidly by the late 1990s. By 2017, Beijing's energy consumption had grown by 74% compared to 1998. Unfortunately, a rapid increase in urbanisation and energy consumption meant higher emissions of pollutants. Things were particularly made worse because the heating in Beijing's residential properties was heavily coal-dependent.

Beijing's 20-year anti-pollution programme can be divided into three phases – 1998-2008; 2009-12; 2013-17. One common theme that ran through the entire effort was not shock-and-awe but a careful and slowly built-up plan with people's participation, which was run autonomously by the local government of Beijing.

Sources of pollution in Beijing were broadly identified as energy structures and coal combustion (contributing 22% to PM2.5), transportation structures (31%), and construction and industrial structures (33%).

For the first source, three steps were taken – ultra-low emission renovation and clean energy alternatives in power plants, renovation of coal-fired boilers, and elimination of civil bulk coal consumption used for residential heating.

For transportation infrastructure, the government first retrofitted cars and public service vehicles with diesel particulate filters (DPF) and gradually tightened emission standards. Then it went for scrapping, through subsidies instead of decree, of 'yellow-labeled' vehicles (heavy pollutant-emitting vehicles). Subway and bus infrastructure was overhauled and expanded at a rapid rate, along with optimising the urban layout.

As for the industrial and construction activities, tightening environmental requirements, intensifying end-of-pipe (EOP) treatment, eliminating obsolete industrial capacity, creating a green construction management model, efficient washing facilities, and implementing video monitoring with penal action against violators of construction sites were some of the steps taken.

The last leg of the plan (2013-17) especially focused on the need for regional cooperation, with five adjoining provinces around Beijing coming together to chalk out a collective plan for reducing ambient pollution in the region. This cooperation had a remarkable effect in reducing the level of pollution.

What did Beijing achieve? And how?

As a result of this meticulously planned strategy at multiple levels, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and PM2.5, the four major pollutants targeted under the policy, fell by 83%, 43%, 42% and 59% respectively between 2013-17 (Chart 3). Since most activities produce multiple pollutants, albeit to differing degrees, targeting a source meant reducing all the associated pollutants.

Chart 4 shows how by targeting each source, multiple pollutants were controlled.

The single most important factor in Beijing achieving its goal, apart from planning to the last detail, was the financial investment that the government committed to.

Chart 5 shows a whopping six-time jump in investment within just four years. All the steps enumerated above required heavy investment and the government did not shy away from making and fulfilling those commitments.

What can Delhi learn from the Beijing experience?

There are ideas galore on controlling pollution, and Beijing is a perfect example to learn from. We list some here, there are more.

Firstly, since private transport is the biggest contributor to local pollution, an efficient and comfortable bus-metro integrated transport system needs to be in place. Delhi's DTC bus fleet is not only old but also grossly inadequate for a population of this city's size. The metro is an excellent means of transport but is quite expensive, with almost zero last-mile connectivity provided by the State. Old vehicles need to be scrapped at the earliest through a well-thought-out subsidy-for-scrap programme, instead of banning them. Exclusive cycling and walking lanes should be built throughout the city. Other ideas, such as cross-subsidisation through affordable public transport and expensive private transport (cars and motorcycles) using congestion or high parking charges, as well as separate fuel costs for the two modes of transport, could be experimented with. An urban layout is needed where places of work and residence are brought closer, alleviating the need for long-distance travel.

Secondly, Delhi's electricity is still supplied primarily through coal fired plants. The energy system needs a serious overhaul both from the sides of supply and demand. Subsiding solar roof tops and connecting it to the grid with electricity bill discounts could be one such step in this regard.

Thirdly, much like the Beijing plan, Delhi needs to coordinate with neighbouring regions, instead of being at loggerheads, to control other sources which originate in these regions. Such a step may work in their collective interests.

Last but not least, the people of Delhi need to fight for the right to clean air and hold the government accountable instead of normalising poor AQIs as being better than severe ones. Prolonged exposure to pollutants, even in the poor AQI zone (for a larger part of the year), may be as dangerous as a short period of severe AQI in October and November every year. This change in attitude itself may go a long way in building pressure on the governments.

Unfortunately, it is not the lack of ideas but political will which is stopping Delhi from acting. It is the same reel playing out every year. Air in the very harmful zone for weeks with schools closing down, the young and the elderly gasping for breath through the day is the new normal in the winter months in Delhi. And what does the government do? The Centre blames the State and vice versa while they have both been in office for a decade. Neither of them is serious or even vaguely interested in solving the problem. Schools, offices, and individuals look for solutions in the form of air purifiers, but private protection for a public bad is by definition exclusivist, with especially the disadvantaged, who contribute the least to the problem, getting a raw deal. Delhi deserves a better response. It is high time that the government, both at the Centre and the State, listened and acted.

Rohit Azad is a faculty at the Centre for Economics Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and Shouvik Chakraborty is a Research Assistant Professor at the Political Economy Research Institute, Amherst, U.S.

Turning the tide on pollution

Beijing's battle against air pollution provides a useful framework for Delhi. With improved transportation, stricter regulations, and regional collaboration, Delhi can follow a similar path to cleaner air

Chart 1: AQI in Beijing vs Delhi 2014-24
(Yearly average)

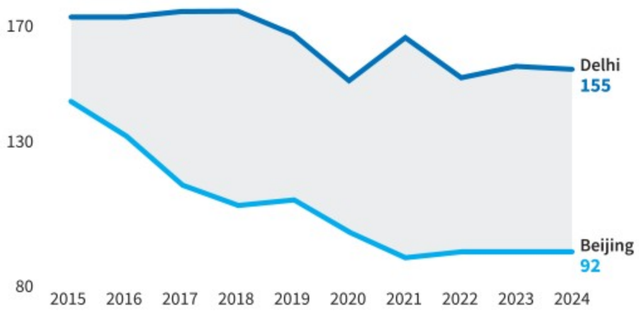


Chart 2: PM2.5 source apportionment for Beijing and Delhi
(Beijing in 2013 and Delhi in 2023)

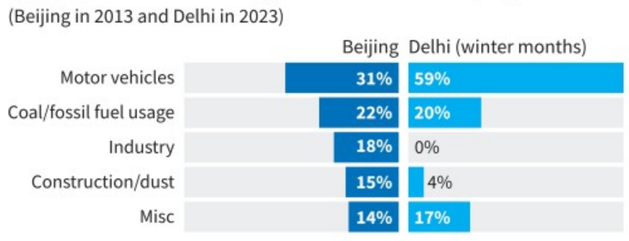
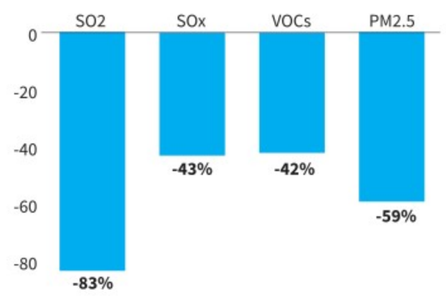


Chart 3: Fall in emissions of major pollutants in Beijing 2013-17
(in %)



Pedestrians walk along the Kartavya Path engulfed in thick smog, near India Gate, in New Delhi, on November 18. AFP

Chart 4: Measure-specific fall in pollutants in Beijing
Contribution of each measure in fall of air pollutants between 2013-17 (in %)

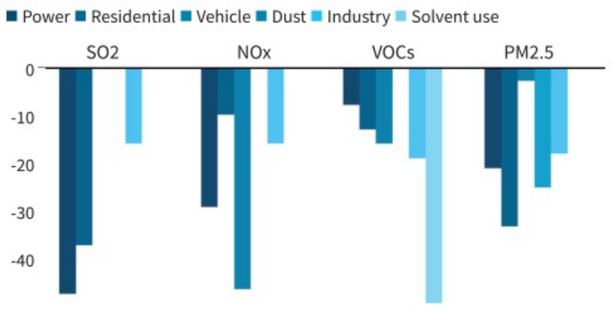
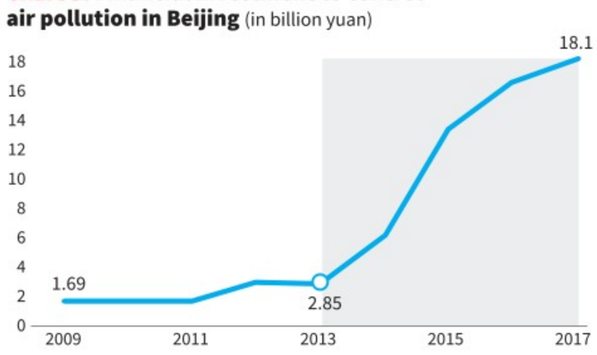


Chart 5: Financial investment to control air pollution in Beijing (in billion yuan)



Source: Data on Beijing has been taken from 'UN Environment 2019 - A Review of 20 Years' Air Pollution Control in Beijing,' United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, Kenya, and, for Delhi, from a report titled 'Real-Time Source Apportionment and Forecasting for Advance Air Pollution Management in Delhi' submitted to the Delhi pollution control committee

THE GIST

Beijing's approach to air pollution involved a long-term, coordinated effort with a focus on regional cooperation and comprehensive policies across multiple sectors.

Key measures included improving transportation infrastructure, retrofitting vehicles, scrapping old vehicles, and enhancing industrial regulations.

Delhi can adopt similar strategies, focusing on integrated transport systems, regional collaboration, and stricter emission controls to combat its pollution crisis.

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)

CANARA BANK

Regional Office West, Chitrapur mutt Complex,
Malleshwaram 15th Cross, Bangalore-560055.

VEHICLE AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described movable property/ies Hypothecated to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken in exercise of the power conferred under The Hypothecation Agreement by **Yeshwanthpur Branch DP (10428), Canara Bank, Bengaluru,** will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on **13.01.2025.**

Sl. No.	Borrower Name, Address and Branch Name	Liability With Interest As On 11.12.2024	Vehicle Model	Registration Month & Year	Registration No.	Reserve Price	EMD Amount
1	**Mr. Sathish G N** C/o Gopal Bldg, Veersandra Village, Electronics City Post, Anekal Tq, Bengaluru-560100. **Yeshwanthpur Branch**	Rs. 9,67,132.20	MOTOR CAB MARUTHI SUZUKI INDIA LTD TOUR S DIESEL (YELLOW BOARD)	JAN-2016	KA 01 AF 0683	Rs. 1,63,400/-	Rs. 16,500/-
E-AUCTION DATE – 13.01.2025							

1. The Earnest Money Deposit stated above shall be deposited on or before **10.01.2025 at 4:00 pm.** The EMD amount has to be paid by Demand Draft (DD) favouring **yeswanthpura Branch Canara Bank, Bengaluru OR through online (RTGS/NEFT/IMPS) to A/c 209272434 IFSC Code: CNRB0010428.**
2. E-Auction of vehicles will be held on **13.01.2025,** between **11.00 A.M. to 12.00 Noon** by the service provider **www.bankeauctionwizard.com.** The incremental value will be **Rs.2500/-**
3. It shall be the responsibility of the interested bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the vehicles before submission of the bid.
4. The intending bidder should submit the KYC Documents along with the bid application.
5. Successful bidder have to remit the balance amount within 3 days from the date of E-Auction, otherwise the EMD amount will be forfeited and will not be refunded under any circumstances. It shall be the responsibility of the successful bidder to bear all the charges for conveyance, transfer registration charges, etc., as applicable.
6. Bank reserves the right to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and conditions of the e-auction without assigning any reason thereof.
7. For further details please contact **The Manager, Yeshwanthpura Branch, Canara Bank, Bengaluru, and Mobile No: 9776426844** during office hours on any working day.

Place : Bengaluru
Date : 12.12.2024

Sd/- Divisional manager, Canara Bank
Regional Office West, Bengaluru

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Bangalore

ARM-1 Branch
2nd Floor, No.86, Spencer Tower,
M.G. Road, Bengaluru-560001
E-mail: cb2366@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the the Authorised Officer of **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of the Canara Bank**, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on **31.12.2024 (10.30 AM to 11.00AM),** for recovery of **Rs.95122142.59** as on **11.12.2024** with further interest and cost there on due to the **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of Canara Bank** from **1) M/s Bangalore Consultants-Contractors,** No.14/14, 59th Cross, 5th Block, Bhashyam Circle, Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore-560010, **2) Mr. Prakash K P, 3) Mrs. Latha Prakash** W/o Prakash K P, **Both are residing at:** No. 364A, 1st Floor, 5th Main, 2nd Block, 3rd Stage, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore-560079.
The Earnest Money shall be deposited by way of E-Wallet of **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan **on or before 30.12.2024 5.00 pm.** **(₹.In Lakhs)**

Lot	Description of the immovable assets:	Reserve Price	EMD	Incremental Value
1	Flat No. 1, Ground floor, Balaji Enclave – 2, No. 120/204, 5th Main road, Ravi Kirloskar Layout, Chikkabidarakallu Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore – 560072 measuring 1500 Sft. **Coordinates of the property: Latitude-13.0535297N, Longitude-77.4839286E**	₹ 52.00	₹ 5.20	₹ 1.00
2	Flat No. 2, first floor, Balaji Enclave-2, No. 120/204, 5th Main Road, Ravi Kirloskar Layout, Chikkabidarakallu Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore-560072, measuring 1500 Sq.ft. **Coordinates of the property: Latitude-13.0535297N, Longitude-77.4839286E**	₹ 52.00	₹ 5.20	₹ 1.00
3	Flat No. 4, Third floor, Balaji Enclave-2, No. 120/204, 5th Main Road, Ravi Kirloskar Layout, Chikkabidarakallu Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore – 560072, measuring 1500 Sq.ft. **Coordinates of the property: Latitude-13.0535297N, Longitude-77.4839286E**	₹ 52.00	₹ 5.20	₹ 1.00
4	All that piece and parcel of property bearing Flat No.401, 4th Floor, Balaji Enclave-3, on property bearing Municipal No.34, PID No.100-760-34, situated at RMV 2nd Stage, 4th Block, Sanjay Nagar, Bangalore-560094. Earlier BDA site No.34, 4th Block, Lottegollahalli, 2nd stage, RMV, Bangalore-560094. Measuring 1700 Sq.ft, Super built up area including proportionate common areas and facilities with 500 Sq.ft of undivided share and one covered car parking area with all amenities, facilities and lefty the Basement. **Coordinates of the property: Latitude-12.9085832N, Longitude-77.5504773E**	₹ 133.00	₹ 13.30	₹ 1.00

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or may contact Chief Manager, ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Mob. No. 08025310066, 9627872626, 7483935007, 9538406090 and 9598559920 during office hours on any working day.

Date : 12.12.2024
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

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TENDERS

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MARINE DEPARTMENT
Notice for e-Tender
Tender No. G1/1324/2024/M
Bids are invited online under Two Cover system for "Tender for hiring of 1 No 50 Ton Bollard Pull Tug for a period of 5 years and extendable by another 2 years in Chennai Port.".
Estimated cost put to tender: **Rs.45,52,21,800/- (Excluding Applicable GST)**
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Our clients **Smt. Manjula** has lost the file containing following original documents while in transit from BBMP Ward office in respect of **Flat No. 201,** First Floor, Measuring 1069 Sq ft of Super built up area and 406.80 Sq ft of Undivided Share, converted Immovable Property bearing No. 11, PID No. 074-23-11, Situated at **Ward No. 74, Jeevanbheemanagar, 16th "D" & "E" Main Road, Kodhalli Bangalore.** They have lodged a police complaint on 18.10.2024 at Bellandur Police station. Whoever finds the documents kindly handover the documents to below mentioned address within **07 days**. The public is hereby cautioned not to transact with anybody claiming to be the owners of the above said survey numbers holding the lost original documents. Any transactions made without our knowledge will be at their cost.

1. Sale Deed dated 29.08.2008, Doc No. 529/2008-09
2. Sale Agreement dated 29.12.2005
3. GPA executed by Mr. Lakshminarayana and others in favour of Mr. G.M. Ramachandra

Jury Legal Solutions,
Advocates & Consultants,
No.8, 14th Cross, 14th Main,
4th Sector, HSR Layout,
Bangalore-560102.
Ph-9844897355 / 9902195500

Bangalore Date : 12-12-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **SRI.HARISH BANGALORE VENUGOPALACHAR,** intending to purchase the property from **Sri.Mruthyunjaya. S and Smt.Shashikala. S** in respect of BDA Site No.347, Having BBMP Khatha PID No 57-43-347 and having BBMP Ward No. 178 Sarakki, Formed by BDA, Situated at **11th 'A' Cross, JP Nagar 1st Phase, Sarakki 1st Phase, Extension, Bangalore,** now comes under the limits of BBMP, measuring East to West 9.14 Mtrs and North to South 12.19 Mtrs, total measuring **111.416 Sq. Mtrs.,** along with RCC roofed Ground Floor which is more fully described in the schedule herein under.
Any person or persons having/asserting any right title or interest/claims or intending to oppose the purchase in any manner may file their objections to the undersigned within **Seven days** from the publication of Notice hereof with documentary proof where after no such claims will be entertained and my client will proceed with the purchase of the said property.

Y. Sowmya Yadav, Advocate
Samvruddhi Legal, # 83, Ground Floor,
5th 'A' Cross, 21st Main, J.P. Nagar
2nd Phase, Bangalore-78. **M : 9916343921**

झारखण्ड़ सरकार
क्षेत्र सर्वेक्षण प्रमण्डल, अग्रिम योजना, पथ निर्माण विभाग, दुमका।

अल्पकालीन ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट सूचना
ई–निविदा प्रसंग सं0 :–**RCD/FSD /AP/ DUM/20/2024-25**
दिनांकः–12.12.2024

1.	कार्य का नाम	**Consultancy services for preparation of viability and financial option analysis/Feasibility Study of Dumka-Hansdiha Road in PPP MODE.** Road Construction Department, Government of Jharkhand (GOJ) invites sealed lump sum financial proposals for **Consultancy services for preparation of viability and financial option analysis/Feasibility Study of Dumka-Hansdiha Road in PPP MODE** in connection with the construction subject mentioned road from consultants empanelled in Category- I with the Department vide letter no 3063(S) WE dated 22.08.2022are allowed to bid only.
2.	अनुमानित लंबाई (मीटर)	42 कि०मी०
3.	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	20 दिन
4.	वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशित होने की तिथि एवं समय	16.12.2024, 10.30 बजे पूर्वाह्न
5.	निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	23.12.2024, 12.00 बजे अपराह्न तक
6.	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	24.12.2024, 12.30 बजे अपराह्न
7.	निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले का नाम एवं पता	कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, क्षेत्र सर्वेक्षण प्रमण्डल अग्रिम योजना, पथ निर्माण विभाग, दुमका।
8.	प्रोक्योरमेंट पदाधिकारी का संपर्क नं0	8292901787
9.	ई–प्रोक्योरमेंट सेल को हेल्पलाईन नं0	0651–2401010

अतिरिक्त जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट पर देखें:–http://jharkhand tenders .gov.in

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PR.NO.341874 Road(24-25):D

बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया Bank of India BOI

RPC Layout Branch, No.46, 5th Main Road, RPC Layout, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-560040. Ph No-22959516-517, Mail Id- RpcLayout.Bengaluru@bankofindia.co.in

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE U/S 13 (2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS & ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002

To,
(1) B K Suresh, No.1246, 8th Cross, Near SBI Chandra Layout, Bangalore Vijayangar, Karnataka-560040. **Also available at:** Flat No.G-02, Ground Floor, Shree Shankar Apartment, 7/1 Palace Cross Road, Bengaluru-560051. **(2) Mr. B K Raja Gopal (Guarantor),** No.1246, 8th Cross, Near SBI Chandra Layout, Bangalore, Vijayangar, Karnataka-560040.
At the request made by You, Bank of India, RPC Layout Branch (hereinafter referred to as "the Bank") had granted a various credit facility with a limit of **Rs.4,40,00,000/-** to you We give here under details of advance facility granted by the bank and the amount outstanding dues there under as on the date of notice:

Nature of facility	Sanctioned Limit	Outstanding Dues
Home Loan A/c Number: 842375110000390	**Rs.4,10,00,000/-**	**Rs.4,15,20,864.79**
Personal Loan A/c Number: 842360810000027	**Rs.30,00,000/-**	**Rs.29,66,013/-**

2) The aforesaid facilities granted by the Bank are secured by the following assets/securities:
Description Of Immovable Property: Schedule A Property: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No.7/1, situated at Palace cross Road, Bangalore, measuring 13,000 square feet and bounded on: East By: Private Property, West By: Vendors Vacant land measuring 1405 sq. Ft, North By: Palace Cross Road, South By: Private Property.
Schedule B property: All that piece and parcel of the residential flat bearing No. G-02 Ground floor, 4 Bed Room flat in residential apartment complex known as "Shree Shanakara Apartments" constructed on the schedule A property having super built up area of 2760 square feet which is include of the floors and walls between the flats and proportionate share in all common areas, such as, passengers pathway, lobbies, staircase, garden area, sump, overhead tanks on the terrace and solar panels and other areas of common car parking slots in the basement. The flat is witjin in the limits of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, bearing khata certificate/E-Khata, PID No.78-119-7/1-2, ward No.78-Vasannthnagar-Bangalore. Boundaries for the Flat East: Corridor, West: Open Space, North: Open Space, South: Open Space.
3) As you have defaulted in repayment of dues payable to the Bank, Bank has classified these accounts as Non-Performing Asset with effect from **27-10-2024** in accordance with the directions/guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India.
4) For the reasons stated above, we hereby give you notice under Section 13(2) of the above noted Act and call upon you to discharge in full liabilities by paying to the Bank a sum of **Rs. 4,15,20,864.79** (Rupees Four Crores Fifteen Lakhs Twenty Thousand Eighty Hundred Sixty-Four and Paisa Seven Nine) **in Home Loan @8.70% P.A in Home Loan from date:27-10-2024 and Rs. 29,66,013.00** (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakhs Sixty Six -Thousand and Thirteen) **@ 11.75% P.A in the Personal Loan from date: 27-10-2024 Total aggregating to Rs.4,44,86,877.79** (Rupees Four Crores Forty Four Lakhs Eighty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Seven and Paisa Seven Nine) along with further interest at contractual interest thereon compounded with monthly rests and all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank, till repayment by you within a period of 60 days from the date of this notice, failing which please note that we will entirely at your risks as to costs and consequences exercise the powers vested with the Bank under Section 13 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, against the secured assets mentioned above.
5) While calling upon you to discharge your liability as above by payment of the entire dues to the Bank together with applicable interest, all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the Bank till repayment and redeem the secured assets, within the period mentioned above, please take important note that as per Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act, the right of redemption of the secured assets will be available to you only till the date of publication of the notice for public auction or inviting quotations or tender from the public or private treaty for transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale of the secured assets.
6) The amounts realized from exercising the powers mentioned above, will firstly be applied in payment of all costs, charges and expenses which are incurred by us and/or any expenses incidental thereto, and secondly applied in discharge of the Bank's dues (including under any of your other dues to the Bank whether as borrower or guarantor) mentioned above with contractual interest from the **Date 28.03.2023** to till the date of actual realization and the residue of the money, if any, after the Bank's entire dues are fully recovered, shall be paid to you.
7) If the said dues are not fully recovered from the proceeds realised in the course of exercise of the said powers against the secured assets, we reserve our right to proceed against you and your other Assets including by filing legal/recovery actions before Debts Recovery Tribunal/Courts for recovery of the balance amount due along with all costs etc. incidental thereto from you.
8) Please take note that as per Sub-Section (13) of the aforesaid Act, after receipt of this notice, you are restrained from transferring or creating any encumbrances on the aforesaid secured assets whether by way of sale, lease, license, gift mortgage or otherwise.
9) The undersigned is a duly authorized officer of the Bank to issue this notice and exercise powers under Section 13 of the aforesaid Act.
10) Needless to mention that this notice is addressed to you without prejudice to any other remedy available to the Bank.

Date : 11.12.2024
Place : Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Bank of India

IN THE COURT OF HON'BLE XXXVth ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE (C.C.H-36) AT Bengaluru

P & SC. No. 496/2024

BETWEEN : 1. Mr. Srinivas Thimmaraju S/o Kalehally R. Thimmaraju, Aged about 58 Years, R/a. No.143 S, Evageline Oaks CIR CONROE United States of America.
2. Mrs. Sudha Thimmaraju W/o Sri. M.L. Ujwal, D/o Kalehally R. Thimmaraju, Aged about 56 years, R/a. No.88, Greenwood Road, Andover, MA 01810, United States of America.
Above named Petitioners Represented by GPA Holder ...PETITIONERS
Dr. Santosh Raju, S/o Dr. Raju M. Aged Major Occ: Doctor/Physician, Residing No.288, 8th Main, 17th Cross, Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru-560080.
AND : NIL ...RESPONDENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS, the petitioner have filed the above petition seeking for grant of probate to the estate (in respect of the schedule property described hereunder) of their parents Dr. K.R. Thimmaraju S/o K.T. Ramaiah and Smt. Savithri Raju W/o K.R. Thimmaraju who died on 27-07-2011 and 10-11-2016.
Take notice that any person having any right or claim/interest in the property or any objection for this for grant of probate. May appear before this honorable court either in person or through an Advocate duly instructed along with supporting documents of the said claim **on 10-01-2025 at 11.00 a.m.** otherwise the matter will be heard and decided.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ITEM No.1 : All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing No.598, PID No. 14-74-598, situated at 19th 'B' Cross, West of Chord Road, 2nd Stage, Bangalore measuring East to West 40 (Forty) Feet and North to South 61 (Sixty One) Feet in all 2440 (Two Thousand Four Hundred and Forty) Feet including residential building and bound on as under:
East by : Property bearing No.599**, West by** : Property bearing No.597, **North by:** Property bearing No.592 & 593, **South by:** 10th 'B' Cross Road.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ITEM No. II : All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Site No.30, Khatha No. 404:418:30, Situated at Chikkabomma sandra Grama, Yelhanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluka (Presently-within the limits of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore) measuring East to West: 60 (Sixty) Feet and North to South: 40 (Forty) Feet in all measuring 2400 (Two Thousand Four Hundred) Sq. Feet in all bounded as under:
East by : Road, **West by** : Site No.35, **North by:** Site No.31, **South by:** Site No.29.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ITEM No. III : The savings Bank Account of mother of Petitioners viz., Late Smt. Savithri Raju W/o late Dr. K.R.Thimmaraju bearing A/c. No.10181703159 of State Bank of India, West of Chord Road Branch, Bangalore, the amount in the savings bank account and the locker in the relation to the above bank account.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ITEM No. IV : The savings Bank Account of mother of Petitioners viz., Late Smt. Savithri Raju W/o late Dr. K.R. Thimmaraju bearing A/c. No. 1145101035788 of Canara Bank, Rajajinagar Branch, Bangalore, the amount in the savings bank account in relation to the above bank account.
Given under my hand and seal of this court, this the 07.12.2024.

By Order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

Advocate for Petitioner : **Sri. Sudhir Kumar**
Nyay Prateek Law Chambers
No.8, Krishna Complex, Opp. B.G. National Public School, Nagarabhavi 2nd Stage, Papareddypalya, Bengaluru-560072.
M. No. 9880888482

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI - 221004

"EMPANELMENT OF ADVERTISING AGENCIES"

No.-PR/69/AA/Part-XIII/24 **Date 11.12.2024**

Applications are invited from experienced and reputed Advertising Agencies fully accredited to Indian Newspaper Society (INS) for empanelment with Banaras Locomotive Works, Varanasi for release of Advertisements, Tender Notices, Auction Notices etc. in Newspapers. Application form can be downloaded from BLW's website: **www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in** from **12.12.2024** to **03.01.2025**. Application must reach the Public Relation Office (PRO), Administrative Building, Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW), Varanasi-221004 by **13:00 hrs** on **03.01.2025** and those tender will open on the same day **03.01.2025 on 15:30 hrs**. This information is also available on BLW's website: **www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in**.

PRO/BLW/02 **Chief Public Relations Officer, BLW**

/blwvaranasi Website- blw.indianrailways.gov.in

SAI
E-Tender Notice

Sports Authority of India, NSSC, Bangalore invites e-tender for following works: -

1. SAI/NSSC/ENGG/NIT-08/2024-25 for REPAIR AND RENOVATION OF TOILET BLOCKS (3 No's) FOR COACHES/ STAFFS , MEN'S & WOMEN'S ATHLETES /TRAINEES IN THE ACADEMIC BLOCK AT SAI, NSSC, BANGALORE. for more details please visit E-Tender website http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app, https://sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in & http://www.saisouth-bangalore.com.

The Last date of Submission of E-Tender is 02.01.2025 up to 16.00 hrs.

Sd/- Deputy Director-Infra

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL

K KAMARAJ ROAD, BANGALORE-42
Tele No : 080-25581238 www.apsbangalore.edu.in

LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION – 19 DEC 2024 (1000HRS)
TENDERS ARE INVITED FOR THE WORK/SUPPLY/INSTALLATION AT ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, K KAMARAJ ROAD, BANGALORE-42

Tender No	Description of Work
APS/254/2024-25	Reappropriation of existing structure into washrooms for students under 7 yeas of age with suitable fitting, antiskid floor and modern amenities
APS/255/2024-25	Relocation of existing outdoor park and playarea including repair of existing play structures due to were and tear due to old vintage
APS/256/2024-25	Installation of picket fence including gate in the front side of lawn of school for purpose of security and gaged area for junior students
NOTE :	1. Please submit sealed quotation super scribed on the envelope **"TENDER FOR_____"** to reach at **ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, KAMARAJ ROAD, BANGALORE on or before 19 DEC 2024 by 1000hrs.** **2. Two Bid system should be followed :-** **(a) Technical Bid:** (i) Separate envelope, mentioning the Tender No (ii) GST No & PAN Details (iii) Company Registration Certificate (iv) Previous year IT Return Filing Certificate (v) Colour photographs of similar project done (vi) Plan and colour sketch of the project. **(b) Financial Bid:** Separate envelope, mentioning the Tender No.

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)

CANARA BANK

Regional Office West, Chitrapur mutt Complex,
Malleshwaram 15th Cross, Bengaluru-560055.

VEHICLE AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described movable property/ies Hypothecated to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken in exercise of the power conferred under The Hypothecation Agreement by **Madanayakanahalli Branch DP (3851), Canara Bank, Bengaluru,** will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** basis on **13.01.2025.**

Sl. No.	Borrower Name, Address and Branch Name	Liability With Interest As On 11.12.2024	Vehicle Model	Registration Month & Year	Registration No.	Reserve Price	EMD Amount
1	**Mr. Nanjundappa N** S/o Sri.nanjayya, No.454, Kere Gudadahalli, Chikkabanavara, Bengaluru-560090. **Madanayakanahalli Branch**	Rs. 62,604.94	MOTOR CAB MARUTHI SUZUKI INDIA LTD TOUR S DIESEL (YELLOW BOARD)	JAN-2020	KA 04 AC 2926	Rs. 4,10,000/-	Rs. 41,000/-
E-AUCTION DATE – 13.01.2025							

1. The Earnest Money Deposit stated above shall be deposited on or before **10.01.2025 at 4:00 pm.** The EMD amount has to be paid by Demand Draft (DD) favouring **Madanayakanahalli Branch Canara Bank, Bengaluru OR through online (RTGS/NEFT/IMPS) to A/c 209272434 IFSC Code: CNRB0003851.**
2. E-Auction of vehicles will be held on **13.01.2025, between 11.00 A.M. to 12.00 Noon** by the service provider **www.bankeauctionwizard.com.** The incremental value will be **Rs.5,000/-**
3. It shall be the responsibility of the interested bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the vehicles before submission of the bid.
4. The intending bidder should submit the KYC Documents along with the bid application.
5. Successful bidder have to remit the balance amount within 3 days from the date of E-Auction, otherwise the EMD amount will be forfeited and will not be refunded under any circumstances. It shall be the responsibility of the successful bidder to bear all the charges for conveyance, transfer registration charges, etc., as applicable.
6. Bank reserves the right to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and conditions of the e-auction without assigning any reason thereof.
7. For further details please contact **The Manager, Madanayakanahalli Branch, Canara Bank, Bengaluru, and Mobile No: 8249729252** during office hours on any working day.

Place : Bengaluru
Date : 12.12.2024

Sd/- Divisional manager, Canara Bank
Regional Office West, Bengaluru.

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government Of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Bangalore

ARM-1 Branch
2nd Floor, No.86, Spencer Tower,
M.G. Road Bangalore-560001
PH: 080-25310066 Mob: 9883532366/9483858759
E-mail: cb2366@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described Immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Physical** possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM -1 Branch, Bengaluru of the Canara Bank,** will be sold on **"As is where is". "As is what is" on 31.12.2024 (10.30 AM to 11.00 AM),** for recovery of **Rs.555275920.63/- as on 09.12.2024** with further interest and cost thereon due to the **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of Canara Bank** from **1. M/S Jaya Shanmuga Projects Pvt Ltd., 2. M/S Jaya Shanmuga Infra Projects Pvt Ltd., 3. M/S Jaya Shanmuga Homes Pvt Ltd., 4. M/S S.V.S. Properties India Pvt Ltd.** all 1 to 4 is Rep by its Director **Mr SVS Sudheer Babu,** No. 216/13, Suraj Towers, 4th Floor, 27th Cross, Jayanagar 3rd Block, Bengaluru – 560011, **5. Sri SVS Sudheer Babu** S/o Sri Lakshminarayana Solliety R/a Flat No 301, 3rd Floor, Nikhil Residency, APT No 576(P-1), 25th Cross, 39th Main, Ideal Homes Township, Halagevaderahalli Rajeshwarinagar, Bengaluru - 560098, **6. Sri Prashanth Raju** S/o Sri Changam Gopinath Raju R/a 74, 3rd Main, 3rd Cross, B.T.M. Layout, 2nd Stage, Bilekahalli, Dollars Layout, Bengaluru – 560076. **7. Sri C. Sharath** S/o Sri S R Chilakari R/a No. 216/13, Suraj Towers, 4th Floor, 27th Cross, Jayanagar 3rd Block, Bengaluru - 560011.
The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of E-Wallet of **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **30.12.2024 5.00 pm** **(₹. in Lakhs)**

01. 11 Residential sites at Ramagondanahalli, Yelahanka Hobli,
Coordinates of the property : Latitude- 13.07154N, Longitude- 77.33074E

Sub Lot No.	Site No.	Area of Site	Sy No.	North	South	East	West	Reserve Price	EMD	Incremental Value
3(b)	6	3,509	53	Kharab Area	3.0M Wide Pathway	12.20m Wide Road	3.0M Wide Pathway	30.50	3.05	0.50
3(c)	12	2,402	53	Site No.11	Site No.13	12.20m Wide Road	3.0M Wide Pathway	20.90	2.09	0.50
3(d)	13	2,402	53	Site No.12	Site No.14	12.20m Wide Road	3.0M Wide Pathway	20.90	2.09	0.50
3(f)	29	3,585	53	3.0M Wide Pathway	Site No.28	Site No.47	12.20m Wide Road	31.10	3.11	0.50
3(g)	30	3,208	53	Site No.31	3.0M Wide Pathway	Site No.44, 45 & 46	12.20m Wide Road	27.80	2.78	0.50
3(ab)	108	2,624	53	3.0M Wide Pathway	Site No.107	Site No.128	12.20m Wide Road	22.80	2.28	0.50
3(ac)	109	3,208	53	Site No.110	3.0M Wide Pathway	Site No.126 & 127	12.20m Wide Road	27.80	2.78	0.50
3(aj)	131	1,201	53	Site No.130	Site No.132	9.15m Wide Road	Site No.105 & 106	11.56	1.15	0.50
3(ao)	141	892	53	Site No.142	3.0M Wide Pathway	Sy.No.52	9.15m Wide Road	7.80	0.78	0.50
3(ap)	153	868	53	Site No.154	Site No.152	Sy No.52	9.15m Wide Road	8.35	0.83	0.50
3(aq)	157	722	53	Site No. 52	Site No.156	Sy No.52	9.15m Wide Road	6.95	0.70	0.50
								216.46	**21.64**	**5.50**

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website **(www.canarabank.com)** or E-Wallet of **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, **Ph. No.08025310066, 9627872626,7483935007,9538406090 and 9598559920** during office hours on any working day.

Place: Bengaluru
Date : 12.12.2024

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

M BG-BGE

IN THE LIMELIGHT

Plague of tiring sequels, buzzkill cliffhangers, and half-films

In franchising projects for better monetisation, pan-Indian films are depriving audiences of the satisfaction of a complete product; big-star filmmaking is now plagued by a lack of know-how in building IPs for the long run

Bhuvanesh Chandar

A two-film-strong, 340-minute-long cat-and-mouse game, comes to an end in director Sukumar's *Pushpa 2: The Rule*. A climactic scene ambiguously ends the arc, urging audiences to ready themselves to leave, only to be compelled back to their seats for 40 more minutes. The extended climax of the Allu Arjun-starrer meant as a segue to a third *Pushpa* film, is an excruciatingly tedious episode that leaves you with a poor aftertaste – it is a cold shower moment in this otherwise 'wildfire' of a film.

This is a new fad picked up by commercial filmmakers of the pan-India movement – franchising for better monetisation or to secure a working formula for the future. Most big-ticket films these days either end with a cliffhanger, depriving audiences of the satisfaction of a complete product, or add a surprise climactic cameo to end on a high note and make way for a sequel. Suriya's *Kanguva* was undoubtedly an untested attempt in Tamil, but the makers were quick to jump on this bandwagon, with a surprise cameo by Karthi and a hook to keep us waiting for the second part. With the disastrous reception at the box office, would a *Kanguva* sequel materialise?

Sequel spiral: A still from *Pushpa 2: The Rule*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

One story, two films

Amid an avalanche of sequels, a deeper issue plaguing big-star filmmaking in India – ironically popularised by *Pushpa: The Rise* – is the trend of splitting the story of one film into two, to justify a sequel. Remember when we used to insert a DVD for each half of a film? Now, each of those halves is extended, with songs and action sequences, to become a film on its own.

In Upendra's *KGF*-mimic *Kabzaa*, writer-director R. Chandru's interconnected narrative arcs tell the story of how an Air Force pilot gets into the crosshairs of a gangster as well as a powerful *maharaja*. The writer takes ample time to set up the world and its characters, introduces a conflict late, and just as they culminate into a nail-biting moment, ends with a surprise cameo by Shivarajkumar and Sudeep Kichcha.

One might blame S.S. Rajamouli's 'Why Kattappa killed Baahubali' shtick for this trend but there is a distinction between endeavours written and conceived as two-film projects – like *Sapta Saagaradaache Ello* or *Ponniyin Selvan* or *Salaar* – and films originally planned as one, split unnecessarily for purely commercial reasons. In *Ponniyin Selvan*, the concerns were whether the length of two films was enough to fit in Kalki's story. With *Devara*, however, it has become apparent that the formula is not working; Koratala Siva uses a climax similar to Kattappa-Baahubali, but if you are wondering why it did not stick, the answer lies in how overstretched the film's narrative feels. Given *Pushpa*'s USP lies in its exaggerated staging and larger-than-life language, one can argue that Sukumar had to give more space to his sandalwood kingpin hero. Even if so, a few other cases allow no space for any reasoning.

Shankar's *Indian 2* feels like a blatant attempt at monetising half a story. The film follows Senapathy's return, triggered by four YouTubers who expose their corrupt parents under his guidance. We get four scenes each to establish the families, four to mark their fallout, a killing spree with little explanation, and a bizarre *#GoBackIndian* scene. The climax features a prolonged 30-minute chase sequence, ending with a cliffhanger promising more in a third instalment. Added for garnish are unnecessary songs and action set pieces. At 160 minutes, the film could have easily been trimmed to 90 minutes, raising the question: why must we pay full price for an incomplete narrative?

Securing an idea for future

Audiences now hold their breath towards the end of a big-ticket film, wishing it to be a contentful standalone feature. If cliffhangers have become a buzzkill, surprise cameos in the climax are no longer surprising. One wonders if such an endeavour is worth taking the risk, should the first film flop at the box office. Like in the case of *Kabzaa* or *Kanguva*, the cameos might have garnered some applause in theatres or some momentary propulsion at the box office, but what happens to these new characters when the sequels are dropped? A film that needs a star cameo or a cliffhanger to get audiences back to its world exposes itself as an inferior product.

Securing an idea for the future drives a filmmaker like Venkat Prabhu to end *The Greatest of All Time* with a contrived, genre-bending twist and a sequel announcement, knowing fully that it may never pan out given Vijay's decision to retire from movies. Take cues from Prashanth Neel on securing a sequel. *KGF 2* ends with Rocky sinking into the depths of the ocean, but not without hinting at *KGF 3*. There are no gimmicks – and Rocky is gone for good – and the *KGF* films boast enough lore to justify bandwidth. Neel, refraining from hacking a story for the sake of it, takes a leaf out of the story we thought we knew everything about and makes it a prequel.

In the case of star cameos, Lokesh Kanagaraj's *Vikram*, starring Kamal Haasan, deserves all praise. The hold Suriya's spectacular cameo as Rolex had on the audiences led many other creators to emulate the same. Through Santhanam's fear of this mysterious figure, one could feel the shadow of Rolex throughout *Vikram*, naturally setting up his entry.

However, one cannot say the same for how Lokesh handled Haasan's cameo in the climax of Vijay's *Leo*. Despite peppering the second half with moments from Vikram's world, the cameo seemed contrived and forgettable.

The climatic segues to a sequel, like the one in *Pushpa 2: The Rule*, also point at a lack of confidence from the filmmakers. Wouldn't the audiences throng the screens if they knew Pushpa Raj was returning with his beard-swiping swag? A surprise announcement adds mystery to how the film would take the story forward. Remember the frenzy when Ridley Scott announced *Gladiator 2*? Or when you knew Sunny Deol was returning to *Gadar*?

How to cash in on past glory?

Scott's sequel is a great showcase of how you can cash in on past glory, a knack many modern greats lack. Eyebrows were raised when Scott announced *Gladiator 2*. It was not that the filmmaker had lost his game; the question was on the story a *Gladiator* sequel would take. The film might have fallen short, but the attempt to birth a fresh story on Maximus Decimus Meridius' son was genuine and well-received.

Could one, however, say the same about *Indian 2*? Interestingly, one does not have to look beyond Tamil cinema to take inspiration. Just last year, Karthik Subbaraj silenced naysayers with his compelling *Jigarthanda Double X*, which stood out from 2014's *Jigarthanda* in tone and treatment while also ensuring it stays true to the theme.

The issues with this trend also point to a lack of know-how among commercial southern Indian filmmakers in building their Intellectual Properties (IPs) into long-term assets – a major reason for insincere attempts at cashing in on established IPs. Hollywood's mantra of IP building can be loosely credited to two well-known strategies: a) tapping into other formats and mediums, and b) quality merchandising of movie IPs.

Hollywood studios like Marvel and Warner Bros. have long tapped into longer and shorter formats to produce spin-offs and mediums like comic books, novels and animation to immortalise their characters in the minds of the audiences. This is why a fan will buy an Iron Man mask or a *Stranger Things*-themed t-shirt even after decades; collectables have always been a potent market for takers. In recent years, every film has come up with a fandom-targeted website that allows users to spend more hours pondering the world of the film. The value of iconography and merchandising only increases in a world of transient intangible media. Just last year, the 'Barbenheimer' phenomenon led to an ocean of merchandise, underscoring the importance of tangible memorabilia. Popcorn buckets are still trending in the U.S.

How many of these pan-Indian films managed to sell quality memorabilia? For all the flashy clothes and accessories Pushpa Raj wears, the makers could have focused on making some noteworthy memorabilia.

Pan-Indian films particularly focus on transient results in this amnesic world, creating an impact that only another sequel film could reignite. Strengthening IPs secures ideas for the future, lets the creator tap into the nostalgia of the audiences, and brings in additional business.

Making a successful sequel is nothing unheard of in India. Bollywood has its fair share of *Bhool Bhulaiyaas*, *Gadars*, *Golmaals* and *Housefulls*. Malayalam cinema has tasted success with the *CBI* series, the *Aadu* franchise, the *Drishyam* films, and the *Harihar Nagar* films. While the *Dandupalya* films and sequels to *Gaalipata*, *Mufti*, and *Love Mocktail* worked well in Kannada, audiences are glued to catch the *Kantara* sequel. Despite their flaws, *DJ Tillu* and *Yatra 2* were received well in Telugu, while *HIT* seems to be a fan-favourite. Tamil creators can learn enough from many debacles (*Saamy Square*, *Maari 2*, *Sandakozhi 2*, *Pichaikkaran 2*, *Velaiilla Pattadhari 2*, and so on) and success stories (*Chennai 28 II*, the *Singam* series, *Aranmanai 4*).

Perhaps now is the time to outgrow sequels, half-films, and climactic cameos. The big picture needs strategy, not gimmicks. Forced franchising is neither flower nor fire.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"There you go again. You always do it. You always point my mistakes."

"It's not 'point my mistakes,' but 'point out my mistakes."

"You see, you're doing it again. Why do you always point my, I mean, point out my mistakes?"

"I thought you wanted to improve your English."

"I do. But you always...."

"Look, let's not get into an argument. What was it you wanted to tell me?"

"I read somewhere that one of our scientists has discovered a new machine."

"Discovered a new machine! You mean 'invented,' don't you?"

"Not again. "Discovered" or "invented," what difference does it make?"

"It makes a big difference. When you "invent" something, you're creating or making something new, something which didn't exist before. For example, Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone."

"Yes, I know that. And Edison invented the electric bulb."

"That's right. Before Edison invented it, there was no such thing as the electric bulb. So when you say you've invented something, what you're claiming is that you've created something new."

"That seems clear enough. What about 'discover'?"

"When you say you've 'discovered' something, you mean you've found something that was already there."

"What do you mean by that?"

"For example, it's possible for you to discover a pirate's hidden treasure."

"That would be wonderful."

"Yes, it would indeed. By discovering the treasure, all that you've done is to find the jewels that the pirates had hidden. You have not created anything new, you understand?"

"I think I'm beginning to. Could you give me another example?"

"Sure. Sir Isaac Newton, for example, discovered the laws of gravitation. He didn't invent them, but merely discovered them."

"So when scientists find a new star in the solar system, they say they have 'discovered' a new star, not 'invented' it."

"Correct again. That's because they have not created the star, but only found it."

"Well, I think I've understood the difference between 'discover' and 'invent.'"

"That's good. And I..."

"... guess what I discovered recently?"

"Pirate's treasure!"

"No. I've discovered that our friend Urmila is a terrible cook."

"Some discovery! I knew that ages ago. If you're going to eat anything she makes, you need a cast-iron stomach."

"Cast-iron stomach! What's that?"

"It's a very strong stomach that can withstand bad food or anything nauseating. If you don't have a cast-iron stomach, it's very difficult to be a traveling salesman."

"That's true. They are well-known for their cast-iron stomachs."

"In that case, I think Urmila should marry a traveling salesman!"

Published in The Hindu on May 24, 1994

THE DAILY QUIZ

A quiz on noted film personality Raj Kapoor on his birth centenary

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

V. V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
What was the original given name of Raj Kapoor and the name of his two brothers who were also noted actors?

QUESTION 2
Name the 1935 film where he debuted as a child artist and in which film did he get his break for the lead role opposite Madhubala?

QUESTION 3
What was the first film under the R.K. Films banner and from where did it get its logo?

QUESTION 4
Which iconic duo, synonymous with Raj Kapoor's films, made their debut in the 1949 flick *Barsaat*?

QUESTION 5
For which prestigious international awards were *Awaara* and *Boot Polish* nominated?

QUESTION 6
On which film was Raj Kapoor working at the time of his passing, and which was later completed by his sons?

QUESTION 7
Which Hrishikesh Mukherjee classic is dedicated to Raj Kapoor?

QUESTION 8
Which film had Raj Kapoor, his father Prithviraj, and eldest son Randhir?

Visual Question:
Name the person Raj Kapoor is hugging in this picture.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Who designed the transmission system and received the first signal? **Ans: Guglielmo Marconi**
2. Name the source and destination of the transmission. **Ans: Cornwall, England, to Newfoundland, Canada**
3. What was the transmitted message? **Ans: The letter S in Morse code.**
4. What did detractors believe would happen during the experiment? **Ans: Earth's curvature would disrupt the transmission**
5. Name the device invented by Edouard Branly that helped in transmitting long-range signals. **Ans: Coherer**
Visual: Name this German scientist who shared the Nobel Prize in Physics with answer to question 1 for his contributions to wireless communication. **Ans: Ferdinand Braun**
Early Birds: Dodo Jayaditya | Tamal Biswas | Piyali Tuli | Sonali Das | Tito Shiladitya

Word of the day

Duress:
compulsory force or threat

Synonyms: pressure, intimidation, coercion

Usage: *Under duress, she signed the contract.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/duresspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /djʊˈrɛs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Uber launches 'Moto Women' bike taxi service

Women riders and drivers also have access to the company's 24x7 Safety Helpline, which provides priority assistance when needed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

We are proud to launch this service in Bengaluru to set a new benchmark for inclusive urban mobility, says Uber.

Despite ongoing uncertainty over the operation of bike taxis in Karnataka, Uber has launched a pilot program in the city called 'Moto Women', exclusively for women two-wheeler riders.

According to the company, this on-demand service connects female riders with female drivers. Under the 'Moto Women' initiative, around 300 women drivers will operate.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Abhishek Padhye, Head of Regional Business Operations, Uber India and South Asia, said, "With Uber Moto Women, we're not just offering a safer and more convenient ride option for women, but also empowering female drivers with the opportunity to earn flexibly in one of India's fastest-growing mobility segments. Bengaluru has always been a pioneer in embracing innovation, and we're proud to launch this service here to set a new benchmark for inclusive urban mobility."

He further highlighted the rapid growth of bike taxis as a transport option in urban India.

"According to a KPMG report titled 'Unlocking the potential of bike taxis in India', over 280 million bike taxi rides were completed across platforms in 2022. Bengaluru alone recorded over 1 million rides monthly, making it one of the country's largest bike taxi markets. Additionally, 65%-70% of bike taxi trips cater to first-and-last-mile connectivity, underscoring their importance in complementing public transport," he said.

Regarding the safety features of Uber Moto Women, Uber said that riders can share their trip details with up to five trusted contacts for real-time tracking. Phone numbers and drop-off addresses are anonymised to protect user privacy.

In addition to this, the RideCheck feature proactively monitors irregularities such as long stops, route deviations, or midway drops, offering timely support. Women riders and drivers also have access to Uber's 24x7 Safety Helpline, which provides priority assistance when needed.

"The service is currently available in selected locations. Depending on the pilot's success, feedback from riders, and demand patterns, we plan to expand to more locations soon," Mr. Padhye said.

Challenges of women drivers

Meanwhile, women bike taxi drivers who have enrolled in the new initiative have called on the government to implement regulatory solutions and urged Uber to reduce the commission deducted from their earnings.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Shilpa Vishwanath, a bike taxi driver from Rajajinagar, who has been working for the past three years, said that while she earns a good income—at least ₹1,000 on average per day—the commission charges are relatively high. "Considering this is a women-centric initiative, Uber should charge a lower commission. Apart from this, the experience has been good. However, there have been instances where auto drivers stop us during rides and claim that bike taxis are illegal. This creates problems for us. The government should provide a proper solution, as the confusion is leading to conflicts between us and auto drivers," she said.

Another rider, Geetha P. from Yelahanka, said, "I have been doing this job alongside my work as an insurance agent for the past year. It has been beneficial since I earn extra income to support my family. I work four hours a day as a bike taxi rider. Now, with the introduction of women-only bike taxis, where only women passengers will be assigned to us, we feel safer and more comfortable."

Two hotel employees held for double murder

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Yelahanka new town police have arrested two hotel employees in connection with a double murder case in which a security guard and his friend were bludgeoned to death on a factory premises on Sunday night.

From Nepal

The accused were identified as Sargam, 21, and Sameer, 19. The duo was hailing from Nepal.

The police said the deceased Vikram Singh, 21, was working as a security guard at an abandoned chemical factory near Bayalu Basaveshwara Temple in Yelahanka Newtown for four years and living on the same premises.

On Sunday, Vikram invited his friend Chotu Toori, 33, from Bihar, for a booze party.

Chotu was working as a driver for a garment factory nearby. The duo prepared chicken curry for dinner and were drinking when Sargam and Sameer barged in and argued with Vikram.

Heated arguments

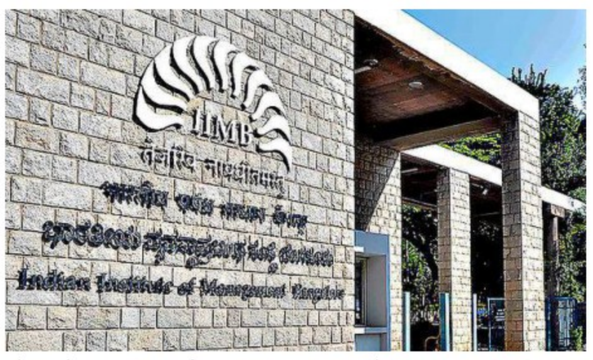
Sargam was annoyed with Vikram for chatting with his female friend and sharing her pictures and videos.

Heated arguments ensued following which the duo assaulted Vikram with iron rods killing him on the spot.

Chotu, who tried to intervene, was also beaten up to death as the duo thought that he would inform the police. The murder came to light when a tea seller went to the factory premises to serve tea for Vikram the next morning and found Vikram and Chotu lying dead in a pool of blood. The police launched an investigation. They analysed CCTV footage and caught the duo in the Majestic bus stand. The police said that the accused were trying to flee from the place.

IIM-B study explores financial challenges of green hydrogen projects

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU


The Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore. FILE PHOTO.

A recent study, 'Funding Green Hydrogen from Waste: Can Social Projects Make Financial Sense?', carried out by the Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore (IIM-B) and published in August this year in Harvard Publishing Business Education, explored the funding challenges for the project estimated to cost ₹4.2 billion and said that there was a risk involved in funding futuristic technology with untested adoption rates and unexplored risk factors.

The study says that with such challenging circumstances, the benefits of the project need to outweigh the risks for it to work.

The study has been authored by academicians Ranjani K.S., Chirag Rawat, and U. Dinesh Kumar, IIMB professor. The study follows the path taken by TheGreenBillions Ltd. (TGBL), which is a pioneer in the Green Hydrogen space.

TGBL was founded in 2016 to enable large-scale adoption of clean energy alternatives, and in early 2022, it started working on a waste-to-hydrogen technology in Pune.

The firm worked closely with research partners, governments, and others for the project. The final solution was presented to the Urban Local Body (ULB) to implement it under a Private Public Partnership (PPP) model.

The final solution was presented to the Urban Local Body to implement it under a Private Public Partnership model

After conducting a feasibility study, the ULB agreed to the implementation of the project post-financial closure. The total cost of the project including design, construction, fabrication, erection, and commissioning of the hydrogen generation facility, along with allied logistics, was expected to be approximately ₹4.2 billion.

"The project had the potential to offer a healthy mix of revenues from multiple streams, including revenues from the sale of hydrogen, waste management operations, recyclables, organic fertilisers, and the sale of carbon credits for reduced emissions resulting from the project," the study noted.

When the project went for funding, it was observed that all major financial institutions had set mandates to fund clean energy projects, the government had set up agencies to promote investments in clean energy projects, and equity funding mechanisms for these projects had been well established.

But, when it comes to green hydrogen projects that had not been developed at scale and with technologies that were not time tested, end users were still considering the technical and financial feasibility of switching from other fuels to green hydrogen.

The study thus implies that even with technological innovations, green hydrogen projects would be more complex for financing and funding agencies.

Disruption in power supply on Dec. 14, 15

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

There will be a disruption in power supply on December 14 and 15 between 5.00 a.m. and 9.00 p.m. in the following areas in view of line clearance for replacement works.

A press release stated the affected areas: Benson Town, Shivajinagar, Vasanthnagar, S.G. Road, Tasker Town, Palace Guttahalli, Queens Road, Attibele Town, Chikkanahally, Indlabele, Anekal Town and Rural, Kaval Hosahalli, and surrounding areas.

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BBMP to digitise individual property records on priority

The State government has made e-khata mandatory for registering properties. BBMP has so far digitised 22 lakh property records and is in the process of digitising another 80,000: Munish Moudgil

THTALKSBENGALURU

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

In a move that would facilitate property owners in Bengaluru who need to register but whose property records have not yet been digitised, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) will digitise individual property records on priority if they contact the Assistant Revenue Officer (ARO).

Munish Moudgil, Special Commissioner (Revenue), Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), announced this at #THTalksBengaluru,

BBMP Special Commissioner (Revenue) Munish Moudgil during the #THTalksBengaluru live online interaction in Bengaluru on Thursday. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

where he responded to readers' questions on e-khata live online here on Thursday . The BBMP has so far digitised 22 lakh property records coming under its jurisdiction and is still in the process of digitising about 80,000 more. Non-digitisation of these property records has become an obstacle to carrying out sale transactions, leaving a section of owners worried.

The BBMP has been flooded with requests to devise a solution for the same. The Karnataka government has made e-khata mandatory for registration properties.

Many readers who sent questions to Mr. Moudgil expressed concern about this and requested that he provide a solution to register properties. During the interaction, he made this announcement, much to the relief of such property owners.

Mr. Moudgil said as the BBMP is still in the process of digitisation of these property records, but e-khata is mandatory for registration, the civic body will be providing an option of digitising individual property records. The property owners whose draft of e-khata is not uploaded in the BBMP's www.bbmpeAasthi.karnataka.gov.in website can approach the ARO.

The ARO will pull out the applicant's property record. All the property registers are scanned, and from these files, his/her property details will be digitised. The AROs are empowered to carry out this digitisation. After the digitisation, the normal procedure has to be followed to secure the final e-khata, and later land transactions can be done. This will benefit thousands of owners who are in need of performing sales.

E-khatas for NRIs

The BBMP will include the PAN card as an option to apply for e-khata for NRI owners. This will help those who do not have the Indian passport, driving licence or voter IDs.

Initially, the BBMP made Aadhaar mandatory for property owners to download e-khata, but then, realising that many NRIs do not possess this document, it made it optional. In a city like Bengaluru, many NRIs purchase properties as a means of investment and often sell them. As they reside in foreign nations, Aadhaar may not be necessary for them. Hence, the mandate was lifted.

NRIs who wish to get e-khata were asked to submit a passport, driving licence, or voter ID card. During the live streaming, a reader, U.R. Rao, asked how NRI owners who do not have these documents can get e-khata.

Mr. Rao said after he executed the settlement deed in favour of his son, a US citizen who does not possess these documents but only has a PAN card. Mr. Moudgil said the BBMP would include the PAN card to apply for e-khata for those who do not have other documents. The NRIs can submit PAN details for processing this vital document.

Aadhaar number

The new system currently does not allow seeding of a single Aadhaar number for multiple properties. This means that if one individual has multiple properties mentioned in a single sale deed, they are unable to secure a single e-khata for multiple properties as seeding of Aadhaar is not allowed. However, the BBMP is making changes to allow seeding.

New software coming soon or those who don't have manual khata: Munish Moudgil

K.C. Deepika
Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Software for those who do not have manual khatas yet can get their e-khatas will be rolled out in a few days, said Munish Moudgil, Special Commissioner (Revenue), Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). It will be done once the loophole where property owners who already have a manual khata for their property can get e-khatas from both systems is plugged.

"As we found a loophole, we are now trying to fix it. We do not want property owners who already have the final e-khata to get it again. It may lead to deceiving buyers, and the same property can be sold to two persons. We are now finding a way to resolve this problem," he said.

It will add more properties to the tax net, and there may be about 5 lakh such properties. Some properties will be taxed despite not having khata. However, he added, property owners who have not paid tax must pay to secure the final e-khata.

Parallel system

"In a day or two, we are rolling out a parallel system where if people have not paid property tax or have no khata, but you have a document of ownership - at least a sale deed, they can apply in this parallel system. We will issue them a draft e-khata and property ID, after which they can pay the tax, and we will issue the final khata on that," he said, participating in the #THTalksBengaluru interactive programme at The Hindu office here on Thursday.

He also said the BBMP is releasing a new module for builders creating vertical developments (flats) to get e-khata: "This is not one of those 22 lakh khatas which are already on our list and released. It is for new khata requests. Basically, a new software or a module for new khatas is being released for vertical flats, where the builder will get the first khata that will be released in around five to seven days."

Faceless, contactless

Explaining the rationale behind introducing e-khata, Mr. Moudgil said it aims to be faceless and contactless and to give citizens full control over their e-khata.

"Till October 1, 2024, BBMP property records have been maintained in a manual register in 64 assistant revenue offices. There are about 22 lakh property records. People were being forced to go to these offices despite the application being online and manually writing the previous owners and other details. There was no way to keep an eye on what was happening here. Under e-khata, 10 months ago, we digitised each of these 22 lakh records. We put them up online. Each ward has about 10,000 to 15,000 ownership records. There was no unique ID like Aadhaar or ration card number, though. BBMP numbers were non-standardised and unscientific. No good mechanism to search the details despite digitisation," he said.

"As data available was minimal, only four to five out of 20-25 fields for details of ownership, we are releasing draft e-khata. We want the citizens to be in full control of it. We are only asking for four to five pieces of information: sale deed, Aadhaar, property tax number, electricity bill number, photo of the property," he added.

English versions soon

Responding to questions about the lack of English versions of the application in a cosmopolitan city like Bengaluru, Mr Moudgil said the BBMP is working towards bringing out more detailed English versions, including the e-khata, which will be made available in the next 10 days.

'E-khata pendency is two days at present'

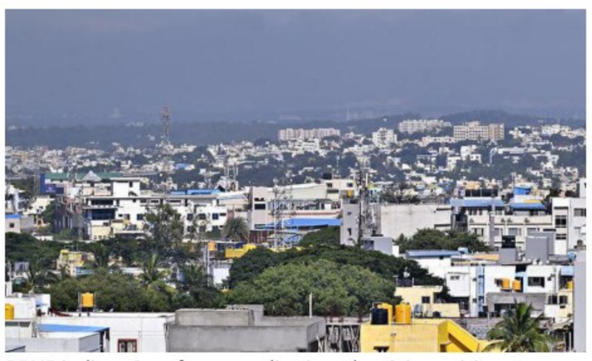
K.C. Deepika
BENGALURU

The pendency of e-khata applications on average is two days for 50,000 applications, said Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Special Commissioner (Revenue) Munish Moudgil.

Participating in The Hindu's reader interactive #THTalksBengaluru on Thursday, he added, "I agree there could be some individual cases pending for longer, for which we are putting in a mechanism to check this."

Clarifying that, at present, there is no last day or deadline to apply for e-khata, he said, "But we encourage people to get it as soon as possible to avoid someone else seeding their Aadhaar with your property to secure it."

He also said the BBMP is disposing of more applications than it is receiving at present. "If we are getting 2,000 applications every day, we are disposing of 4,000. We have been increasing the number of hands. We do plan to take up drives at the ward level. E-khata is not the monopoly of the BBMP. Any private party can open counters other than Bangalore One and BBMP offices and start issuing the e-khatas, and we are planning to make this a formal arrangement this month," he added.



BBMP is disposing of more applications than it is receiving at present, says Munish Moudgil, Special Commissioner (Revenue), BBMP. FILE PHOTO

> E-khata is not the monopoly of the BBMP. Any private party can open counters other than Bangalore One and BBMP offices and start issuing e-khatas, and we are planning to make this a formal arrangement this month.
> **MUNISH MOUDGIL**
> Special Commissioner (Revenue), BBMP

Mismatches and errors

Responding to multiple questions on how to deal with spelling errors and detail mismatches, he said, "We have digitised as it was in our documents. Where name mismatch happens, the software does not check commas, full stops, etc. It allows approximate match - about 70-80 %. Below a certain threshold, it declares it as a mismatch. This is to ensure that someone else cannot seed their Aadhaar with your property. So the software declares it as a mismatch, gives you a notification with an endorsement and sent to the ARO, who has the full authority to make a decision."

"In other cases, a 7-day mutation will be triggered, such as for inheritance. The total is, in any cases of mismatch, meet the ARO," he added.

"We have heard allegations of bribes being asked, and we have already taken action; we have set up a helpline for information and complaints: 9480683695 - open between 9 am and 6 pm. We are reviewing the AROs, too, every day. Internally, our call centre people follow up on complaints addressed. Every morning, there is a video conference with all the 64 AROs and we see how many applications have come in 24 hours, how many are pending, and in case of any pendency beyond two days, action is taken," he said.

Temporary stoppage provided

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A temporary stoppage has been provided for Train numbers 16579 and 16580 Yeswantpur - Shivamogga Town - Yeswanthpur Daily Intercity Express at Chikbanavar station on an experimental basis from December 16, 2024 to March 15, 2025.

Accordingly, Train No. 16579 Yeswanthpur-Shivamogga Town's daily intercity express will arrive at Chikkabanavara at 9.25 a.m. and depart at 9.26 a.m.

Similarly, Train No. 16580 Shivamogga Town-Yeswanthpur Daily Intercity Express will arrive at Chikkabanavara at 7.34 p.m and depart at 7.35 a.m.

CREDAI Bengaluru flags issues in implementation of e-khatas

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI Bengaluru), while welcoming e-khata as a "step in the right direction to bring enhanced transparency and responsibility into the real estate sector", said the sector has been facing challenges due to its sudden mandatory implementation.

"The sudden implementation of mandatory e-Khata has resulted in a rush of applications and subsequent overflow of applications from the general public, causing significant distress to people who are in the process of getting their documents registered," said Amar Mysore, president of CREDAI Bengaluru.

Mr. Mysore also stated that the current process of uploading documents for e-Khata and the document verification process adopted by BBMP was time-consuming and cumbersome, and therefore have been causing delays in the registration process of various documents.

User-friendly interface

Additionally, CREDAI Bengaluru also recommended streamlining the uploading process by introducing a user-friendly interface, allowing users to upload the requisite documents to complete the e-Khata procedure.

The industry body also raised concerns about the new system's impact on stamp duty calculations for undeveloped land. With the e-khata being insisted upon, even the undeveloped lands were wrongly being assessed on valuation based on per sq ft. basis contrary to the previous method of acre-wise valuation, it said. They have demanded reverting to the previous mechanism for undeveloped land, reducing stamp duty fees for deposit of title deeds.

CREDAI - Bengaluru on Thursday submitted a memorandum to Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda and Munish Moudgil, Special Commissioner (Revenue), BBMP, spearheading the e-Khata initiative.

"We have been assured by the government and BBMP that our suggestions will be considered, and we are confident that all issues pertaining to this will be resolved speedily so that the government, the real estate sector and the home buyers are benefitted," Mr. Mysore further said.

Mega job fair for women in Dharwad on Sunday

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Over 40 companies from across the State will participate in a mega job fair for women to be organised on JSS College premises in Dharwad on Sunday. Addressing presspersons in Dharwad on Wednesday, secretary of Janata Shikshana Samiti (JSS) Ajit Prasad said that the mega job fair for women organised by JSS in association with Rapid Institute will be held from 8.30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mr. Ajit Prasad said that over 40 companies from Bengaluru, Hassan, Hubballi and Dharwad will participate in the job fair during which interviews for over 5,000 positions will be conducted. Women aged between 18 and 45 who have completed SSLC, PU, degree, diploma or postgraduate degree courses can participate in the fair. Already, 500 women have registered, he said.

Rapid Institute CEO Malavika Kadakol said that the job fair is aimed at providing employment opportunities for unemployed women, including the differently-abled. Registration will begin at 8.30 a.m. on that day. Candidates can also register via QR code, she added.

Principal of JSS ITI College Principal Mahaveer Upadhye said that Mr. Ajit Prasad will inaugurate the job fair at JSS Utsav Hall at 9.30 a.m.

Karnataka State Law University Registrar Anuradha Vastrad and Mayur Kamble of NABARD will attend the event, he said.

Karnataka set to overhaul its farming sector using technologies developed by its own innovators

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Karnataka is set to transform its farming sector by exploring the power of digital technologies created by its own innovators to empower and increase the incomes of its smallholder farmers, women farmers, tenant cultivators, and others in the farming fraternity, according to a report made available at TiE Global Summit here on Wednesday.

"A mindset shift is needed to view farmers as entrepreneurs and contributors to the economy, not just beneficiaries of government schemes. Agriculture must be positioned as an exciting career for the youth, integrating technology and business innovation," said a call for action report titled 'Unlocking farmer-centric digital agriculture' jointly prepared by the Government of Karnataka, Karnataka Digital Economy Mission, The World Bank, The Agri Collaboratory, and TiE Bangalore.

Priyank Kharge, Minister for IT and BT

Parmesh Shah, Global Lead for Data, Digital Agriculture and Innovation at The World Bank, said based on his experience across 29 countries, building a five-year roadmap with a focus on institutions and use cases would help accelerate progress on data governance and targeted data sharing for specific areas such as agri finance, climate-smart solutions, and soil rejuvenation.

"AI and digital tech in agriculture can turn farmers into entrepreneurs and Karnataka into a global agri-food leader," Dr. Shah said.

Priyank Kharge, Minister for IT and BT, recommended a three- to five-year roadmap for Karnataka to enable an integrated approach across silos and government departments to leverage current and new programmes across sustainability, water, circular economy, etc. to target higher exports of farm goods, farmer profitability, and sustainability practices.

The Minister also proposed an annual agri-tech forum in Karnataka for start-ups and recommended thought leaders from other States and nations should be involved in brainstorming and showcasing best practices, technologies, and use cases for digital and data-led innovation in agriculture.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, DEC. 13	
RISE 06:33	SET 17:55
RISE 15:57	SET 04:11
SATURDAY, DEC. 14	
RISE 06:33	SET 17:56
RISE 16:54	SET 05:15
SUNDAY, DEC. 15	
RISE 06:34	SET 17:56
RISE 17:55	SET 06:20

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	23
Mysuru	29	19
Bengaluru	26	19

Bengaluru Today
25°C Morning will be slight cool. Day will be pleasant. Few spells of light to moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
27°C Morning will be slight cool. Day will be comfortable. Chances of light rain and thundershower at few places.

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THE HINDU
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Govt. of Uttarakhand

Viksit Bharat, Sashakt Uttarakhand

"Under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Uttarakhand is progressing steadily on the path of development. The state government is taking necessary steps to encourage tourists to visit not only for tourism but also to experience the holy shrines. This will allow tourists to enjoy the spiritual and touristic experiences, especially during the winter season."

Pushkar Singh Dhami
Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

"There are two main pillars for the creation of a developed India in the 21st century – pride in our heritage and making every possible effort for development. Today, Uttarakhand is strengthening both these pillars. This decade will be the decade of Uttarakhand."

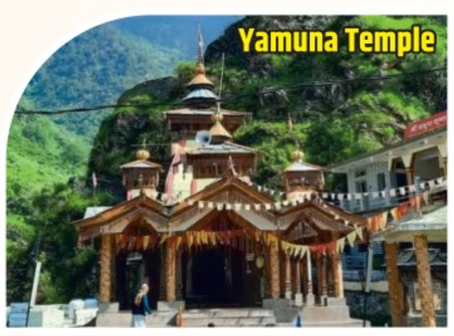
Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

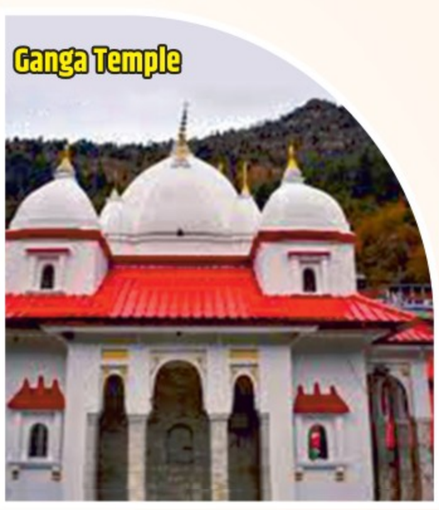
Devbhoomi Uttarakhand

WINTER YATRA

1 Shri Yamunotri Dham's winter stay
Yamuna Temple
Kharsali (Uttarkashi)

Yamunotri, the first stop of the Char Dham Yatra, is home to the Yamuna Temple. When the temple closes for the winter, the idol of Goddess Yamuna is brought to Kharsali, where she resides for the winter months, and during the winter sojourn, Maa Yamuna is worshipped in Kharsali. Here, the temple of Lord Shani Dev Ji, the brother of Yamuna Ji, is also located.



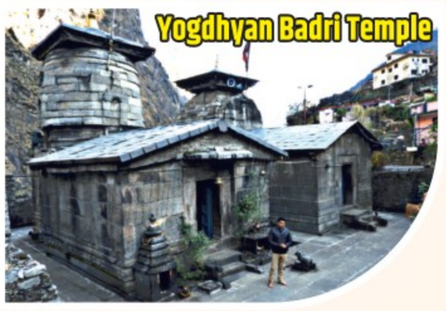


2 Shri Gangotri Dham's winter stay
Ganga Temple
Mukhimath, Mukhba (Uttarkashi)

The Ganga Temple in Mukhimath, Mukhba serves as the winter abode of Goddess Ganga. When the Gangotri Temple closes for winter, the idol of Goddess Ganga is brought from Gangotri to Mukba for winter worship.

3 Shri Kedarnath Dham's winter stay
Omkareshwar Temple
Ukhimath (Rudraprayag)

The Omkareshwar Temple in Ukhimath serves as the winter home of Lord Kedarnath. During the winter months, the idol of Lord Kedarnath is brought from Kedarnath and worshiped at this temple.



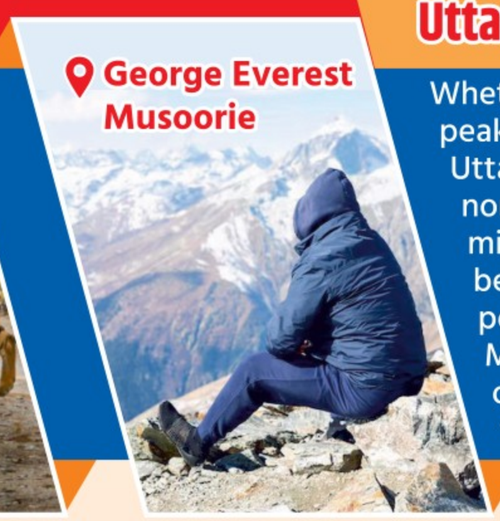
4 Shri Badrinath Dham's winter stay
Yogdhyan Badri Temple
Pandukeshwar (Chamoli)

When the Badrinath Temple closes for winter, the idol of Lord Badri Vishal is worshiped at the Yogdhyan Badri Temple in Pandukeshwar. The idols of Uddhav Ji & Kuber Ji are also brought to this temple for winter worship. Additionally, Adi Guru Shankaracharya's idol is placed at the Narsingh Temple in Joshimath for the winter.

SUNSHINE TOURISM

While the many part of the country are covered with fog, on the other hand the mountains of Devbhoomi Uttarakhand offer the pleasure of basking in cheerful sunlight.

COME, EXPERIENCE SPIRITUALITY & TOURISM IN UTTARAKHAND



Uttarakhand: A unique, thrilling, and natural destination

Whether it's eco-tourism, wildlife tourism, or the thrill of unexplored snowy peaks with activities like skiing, mountain biking, paragliding, and trekking, Uttarakhand offers everything you could need for an adventure that would normally require travel to multiple countries. Known for green tourism, mindful travel, wildlife exploration, and natural tourism, Uttarakhand has become a popular destination. Due to improved tourism policies and high potential, there has been significant investment in tourism in recent years. Moreover, many big investors are now exploring tourism investment opportunities in the state. Uttarakhand is emerging as a prime destination for adventure activities

#ExploreUttarakhand
@DIPR_UK

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ISRO conducts successful sea-level hot test of CE20 cryogenic engine

Space agency says this test featuring restart-enabling systems is a vital step for future mission

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully carried out the sea-level hot test of its CE20 cryogenic engine.

The space agency said that this critical test featuring restart-enabling systems is a vital step for future missions. Testing the CE20 engine at sea level poses considerable challenges, primarily due to the high area ratio nozzle which has an exit pressure of approximately 50 mbar.

The test was carried out at the ISRO Propulsion Complex in Mahendragiri of Tamil Nadu on November 29.

The test was carried out at the ISRO Propulsion Complex at Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu.

Main concern
According to ISRO, one of the main concerns during testing at sea level includes flow separation inside the nozzle, which leads to severe vibrations and thermal problems at the flow separation plane leading to possible mechanical damage to the nozzle.

"To mitigate this issue, the flight acceptance tests for CE20 engines are currently being performed at the High-Altitude Test (HAT) facility, thereby adding complexity to the acceptance testing procedure. To reduce the complexity related to the testing at HAT, a sea level test utilizing an innovative Nozzle Protection System was devised that has paved the way for a cost-effective and less complex procedure for acceptance testing of the cryogenic engines," ISRO said.

It further added that restarting a cryogenic engine is a complex process and the major challenges are vacuum ignition without nozzle closure and use of multi-element igniter.

"ISRO has demonstrated vacuum ignition of the CE20 engine without nozzle closure in earlier ground tests. In this test, the multi-element igniter performance was also evaluated, wherein, only the first element was activated, while the health of the other two elements was monitored," it added.

Performances normal
During this test, both the engine and facility performance were normal, and the required engine performance parameters were achieved as anticipated. The indigenous CE20 cryogenic engine developed by the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre of ISRO is powering the upper stage of the Launch Vehicle Mark -3 (LVM3) and has been qualified to operate at a thrust level of 19 tonnes. This engine has successfully powered the upper stage of six LVM3 missions so far.

5 new species of Darwin wasp discovered

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A team of researchers from the Bengaluru-based Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) and their collaborators have discovered five new species of the Darwin wasp subfamily Microleptinae (Hymenoptera:Ichneumonidae) from India and Thailand. Darwin wasps are parasitic wasps whose larvae consume their hosts from within.

This marks the first documentation of this subfamily in India, ATREE said.

Darwin wasps are parasitic wasps whose larvae consume their hosts from within.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

42 subfamilies
The family Ichneumonidae comprises 42 subfamilies, with Microleptinae being one of the smallest. It contains a single genus, Microleptes, with 14 previously known species worldwide. The subfamily is distributed across the Palaearctic, Nearctic, and Oriental regions, with most species reported from the Palaearctic. Until now, Microleptes malaisei, reported from Myanmar in 1998, was the only known species from the Oriental region.

In a recent study, Ranjith A.P. and Priyadarsanan Dharma Rajan of ATREE, alongside collaborators Buntika A. Butcher of Chulalongkorn University, Thailand, and Andrei E. Humala of the Russian Academy of Sciences, described four new species from India (Microleptes chiani, M. gowrishankari, M. sandeshkaduri, M. tehriensis) and one from Thailand (M. depressus).

"Out of the four new species from India, Microleptes chiani collected from Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (KMTR), Tamil Nadu, is named to honour our long-time associate Tamilazhagan (Sr. Technical Assistant, ATREE) who is more popular as Chian. Microleptes gowrishankari collected from Biligiri Ranganathaswamy Temple Tiger Reserve, in Karnataka, is named after Dr. P. Gowri Shankar of Kalinga Foundation, Karnataka, for his works on the study and conservation of the King Cobra," said ATREE.

Microleptes sandeshkaduri collected from the Siang valley of Arunachal Pradesh is named after Sandesh Kadur of Felis Creations for his contributions towards the documentation, and conservation of biodiversity. Microleptes tehriensis is named after its collection site, Tehri in Uttarakhand.

Protest over police from other States detaining activists

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A delegation comprising lawyers, students, and activists held a protest demonstration outside the State police headquarters on Thursday. The delegation demanded action against police from other States who allegedly flouted rules while making arrests in Karnataka and that the police take action against hate speeches in the State.

A memorandum submitted to the State police chief claimed that the Delhi police tried to intimidate and pick up civil rights activist Nadeem Khan, National Secretary of the Association for Protection of Civil Rights. They also highlighted how fact-checker Mohammed Zubair, was also recently booked in a FIR. "Delhi Police and the UP Police are conducting a targeted witch-hunt of human rights activists," the memorandum alleged.

"The FIR and criminal investigations are clearly being used as a tool of harassment to silence human rights work. This is to create a chilling effect of fear and prevent individuals from taking up issues of the violation amongst minorities and other communities. Karnataka police must not be a party to such lawless behaviour," the memorandum said. "The sequence of events underscores concerns about procedural violations, intimidation tactics, and misuse of power by law enforcement," it further said.

Disha Ravi's case
This is not the first time that police of another state have come to Karnataka to detain someone here illegally. In Disha Ravi's case, the Delhi police illegally detained her from Bengaluru, the memorandum stated. "This is an attack on federal principles of governance that a State Police of another State without intimation to the persons named as accused or cooperation from the jurisdictional police is emboldened to take such arbitrary, illegal actions outside their jurisdiction," the memorandum said.

ANDHRA PRADESH STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LTD
Head Office: 10-152/1, Sri Sai Towers, Ashok Nagar, Bandar Road, Vijayawada-520007
Lr.No.PDS.3/18/2755/2024-26 Dated:13.12.2024
SHORT TENDER NOTICE
Tender for appointment of Stage I transport contractors for the transportation of food grains from designated buffer godowns to MLS Points/other godowns within or outside the district, for Twenty two (22) Districts of AP, for a period of two years through NCDEX e Markets Ltd auction platform.
Applications are invited from the interested bidders for the appointment of Stage I transport contractors for transportation of food grains from designated buffer godowns to MLS Points/other godowns within or outside the district, for 22 Districts of AP, for a period of two years i.e. for 2024-26.
All the interested bidders in All Over India may visit **www.apscscl.in** & **www.neml.in** to view and download tender documents at free of cost from **14.12.2024** onwards.
Interested bidders need to register in portal as vendor i.e., in NeML (NCDEX e Markets limited) platform and Contact: Tel: **9962059599** and for registration may visit website **www.neml.in**
The interested bidders may visit **apscscl.in** or **www.neml.in** for tender details, application forms and terms & conditions
Last date for online registration and completion of formalities for submitting the online tenders shall be up to **27.12.2024.** in **NeML (NCDEX e Markets limited)** platform.
Sd/-
VC & MANAGING DIRECTOR

RURAL DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION DEPARTMENT
Office of the Chief Engineer, RDW&S Dept., 1st Floor, E-Block,KHB Complex, Cauvery Bhavan, Bangalore-560009. Tel: 080-22533700 Email: cerws14@gmail.com
No. RWSSD/2024-25/SE0644 Date : 12-12-2024
SHORT TERM TENDER INVITATION
Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Govt. of Karnataka invites Short term tender in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** from eligible bidders in two cover system (Technical and Financial bid) for **"Selection of Energy Auditing Agency for carrying out energy audit of the selected Multi Village Water Supply Schemes and Feasibility / Scoping Study on usage of renewable energy in various districts of Karnataka".** EMD: **Rs. 1,00,000/-.**
The last date for submission of bids through e-portal is **23.12.2024.**
Sd/- Tender Inviting Authority
RDW&SD, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/YC/3740/2024-25

INSTITUTE ON MANAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION (IMAGE)
(AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA)
Siripur, BHUBANESWAR-751003, Odisha
Ph.- (0674) 2562151, Fax-2561879, E-mail: imagebbsr@rediffmail.com
No.5783 / IMAGE, **CORRIGENDUM** Dated: 11.12.2024
With reference to the RFP No- 4516 dtd.07.10.2024 for selection of Agency for establishment of project management unit (PMU) under Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojana - (Cafeteria) scheme at DA&FE(O)
The details of information relating to the important Revised dates with reference to the RFP No-4516 dtd.07.10.2024 can be downloaded from **https://agri.odisha.gov.in/ www.tendersodisha.gov.in** from dtd.12.12.2024.
Director, IMAGE
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BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Pulikeshinagar Division, BBMP Office Building, Robertson Road, Frazer Town, Bengaluru.
No. EE/PN/TEND/10/2024-25 Date: 12.12.2024
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
Two cover System (Only through GoK KPP Portal)
The Executive Engineer, Pulikeshinagar Division, BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf the Commissioner, BBMP invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Govt. Organisations for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. value of work (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD Amount (in Rs.)
1	Additional Works to Anganawadi centre in Ashoknagar in Ward No. 70 (Old Ward No. 31) Kushalnagar (Block No. 26-2) (ST Category Works)	100.00	75,000/-
2	Improvements to drains & roads at M.S. Building & P.K. Colony in Ward No. 74, Old Ward No. 60 (Block No. 55 & b56) Sagayapuram.	100.00	1,50,000/-
3	Additional works to Construction of MLA Office Building at M.M. Road in Ward No. 78, Pulikeshinagar.	99.00	1,98,000/-

Period of completion : **180 days (including monsoon)**
Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 18.12.2024, 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of Pre-bid Meeting at the above office : **21.12.2024 at 15.00 hrs. (3)** Last date for submission of tenders: **on or before 30.12.2024, 16.00 hrs. (4)** Date of opening of Technical bids: **31.12.2024 at 16.30 hrs. if possible or next working day.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Pulikeshinagar Division

Govt. of Karnataka
Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society, Bengaluru
(An Organisation of Government of Karnataka)
No.8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Karnataka Marketing Federation Building, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560052.
No: KREIS/AEE-1/Tender-18/2024-25 Date: 12.12.2024
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Only)
The tenders have been invited for **Construction of Post Metric Girls Hostel at Raibhag Town, Belagavi, Construction of Compound Wall and Electrical / Civil Repair works to Residential Schools in various Districts of KREIS (Tender Indent No. 417, 70/call-4, 331, 332, 342, 348, 375, 369/call-2, 259/call-2 & 266/call-2)** through e-Portal vide website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on **12.12.2024.** The last date for receipt of tenders is **26.12.2024** for Repair works and **10.01.2025** for Hostel work. The details may be viewed at above website.
Note: Any changes in term tender notification will not be published in dailies. It will be published in e-Procurement portal only.
Sd/- Assistant Executive Engineer-1 KREIS
DIPR/CP/YC/3739/2024-25

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, Head Office Premises, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002
No.: EIC/BBMP/PR/1923/2024-25 Date: 12.12.2024
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR RAISING FUNDS
(Corrigendum to EIC/BBMP/PR/1923/2024-25)
BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE INTENDS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR ITS TWIN TUNNEL PROJECT
CORRIGENDUM-1
Sub: "Funding requirements of the Underground Vehicular Road 3-lane Twin Tunnels with Tunnel Boring Machine for the North-South Corridor of Bengaluru starting from Hebbal Esteem Mall Junction to Silk Board KSRP Junction in the State of Karnataka on BOT (Toll) Mode". - Reg **Changes in schedule and amendments in the EOI document** with reference to **EIC/BBMP/PR/1923/2024-25 dated: 06.12.2024**
The **Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP)**, is making the following amendments to the EOI document based on internal discussion and deliberation.
1. The BBMP proposes to **borrow INR 8,000 Crores** (Rupees Eight Thousand Crores only) for **funding the grant requirement and cost of land acquisition** related to the North-South corridor only.
The EOI for Funds required for the East-West Corridor will be called separately.
2. **Withdrawal of funds:** The BBMP reserves the right to draw the amount based on requirement. The loan amount is proposed to be withdrawn over a period of five years, to partly support the construction cost of the concessionaire. The construction of the North-South corridor is expected to start by 2025.
3. Following is the updated calendar of events for the process:

Sl. No.	Particulars	Dates
1	Notice inviting EOI for raising funds	13.12.2024 (Corrigendum)
2	Submission of queries	13.12.2024 to 20.12.2024
3	Compulsory purchase of Draft DPR of the tunnel project @ INR 25,000/- as DD payable to Chief Commissioner, BBMP, submitted to Office of Engineer-in-Chief, BBMP	13.12.2024 to 20.12.2024
4	Pre-bid meeting in the Office of Chief Commissioner, BBMP	23.12.2024 at 04:00 p.m.
5	Last date for submission of bid sealed cover to the Special Commissioner (Finance), BBMP	03.01.2025 up to 04:00 p.m.
6	Opening of bids	03.01.2025 at 05:00 p.m.

4. The Proforma for bid submission and the draft DPR may be collected from the Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, BBMP upon submission of the DPR Purchase Fee. The draft DPR is subject to changes.
5. The Proforma for bid submission will require the bidder to furnish key parameters and terms including amount to be sanctioned, tenor, rate of interest, repayment schedule, moratorium, security, other charges, etc.
6. You may kindly contact the following officials for any further information / clarification: Dhananjaya K.K. (+91-98452-08023) or Shilpa (+91-99865-53232).

Sd/-
Engineer-in-Chief
Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

BANNERGHATTA BIOLOGICAL PARK
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BANNERGHATTA BIOLOGICAL PARK, BENGALURU - 83.
Phone No: 080-29776466/67 E-mail: ed@bannerughattabiopark.org
No:A3/BBP/e-Tender/Feed-Meat/CR-1/2024-25 Date: 03-12-2024
TENDER NOTIFICATION
The Executive Director, Bannerghatta Biological Park, Bengaluru herein after referred as Tender Inviting Authority, has invited e-Tender for **Supply of Buffalo Meat above the age of thirteen years for the Captive Wild Animals Housed at Various Units in Bannerghatta Biological Park** for one year from the date of agreement through e-Procurement Portal from the eligible Contractor.

Sl. No.	Details	Approximate cost of the commodities put to tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD to be furnished (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	Supply of Buffalo Meat to Safari, Zoo and Rescue Center.	160.00	2.40

Approximate Quantity per Annum (in Kgs): 1,95,000.00
Detailed tender documents may be downloaded from the Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Tenders may be submitted along with EMD and tender fees electronically in e-Proc **upto 4.00 PM. on 21-12-2024.** Technical Bid will be Opened on **23-12-2024 at 11.30 AM.** Financial Bid will be Opened **on 26-12-2024 at 11.30 AM**
DIPR/CP/3732/Adverto/2024-25 **Sd/- Executive Director**

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC) division, Bommanahalli Zone, Room No. 101, Annex-3 Building, BBMP N.R. Square, Bangalore-02
No: EE(QA/QC)/BHZ/TEND/68/24-25 Date: 12.12.2024
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover Tender) (Through e-Procurement Portal GOK website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)
The Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Quality Assurance/Quality Control division invites Request for Proposal from interested persons/firms those who have done similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for the below works through e-Procurement system by the Executive Engineer QA/ QC, Bommanahalli Zone BBMP.

Sl. No.	Name of the work
1	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for the "Improvements to Roads, Drain and Footpath and Asphalting including Milling whole surface of Selected Arterial, Sub Arterial and Other important roads in Bommanahalli Assembly Constituency (Package No.B- 1) of RI-Bommanahalli Division. **Project Cost (Rs. in Lakhs):** 2,250.00. **EMD amount in Rs.:** 33,100/-
2	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for the "Improvements to Roads, Drain and Footpath and Asphalting including Milling whole surface of Selected Arterial, Sub Arterial and Other important roads in Bangalore South Assembly Constituency (Package No. B- 2) of RI-Bommanahalli Division. **Project Cost (Rs. in Lakhs):** 2,250.00. **EMD amount in Rs.:** 33,100/-

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender Document may be downloaded: through E-portal form: 13.12.2024. **(2)** Pre-bid Meeting: 16.12.2024 at 11.30 AM Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC) R.no.101. Annex-3 Building, BBMP N.R. Square, Bangalore-560 002. **(3)** Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders: 23.12.2024 up to 4:00 PM. **(4)** Opening of Technical bid: 24.12.2024 at 4:30 PM. **(5)** Validity of Tender: 90 Days from last date of receipts of Tender. **Sd/- Executive Engineer, (QA/QC) Division, Bommanahalli Zone**

KMF Karnataka Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
KMF Complex: Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789 fax: 080-25536105
IFT No: KMF/ENGG/NHMPP-Media for Softner tank/2013/2024-25 Date: 12-12-2024
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
[TWO COVER SYSTEM] [THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY]
Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites tender from the eligible manufacturers/ authorised dealer through KPP Portal for the works mentioned in the table below. The interested manufacturers /Suppliers who have handled similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty.	EMD in Rs.	Period of Completion
1	Supply, Removal of existing media from Softners, DMF & ACF and Refilling of new media to Softners, DMF & ACF at NHMPP, Ramanagar.	1 Job	56,640/-	2 months

1. Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated: 13-12-2024 to 21-12-2024 up to 4.00 pm.
2. Last date for Tender submission on date:21-12-2024 up to 4.00 pm
3. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: 23-12-2024 at 4:30 pm.

For Karnataka Milk Federation Limited
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

Do not take issue of illegal hoardings and flexes lightly, HC tells State govt.

It expresses displeasure over absence of provision to levy penalty in proposed bylaw on those who erect illegal hoardings

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Cautioning the State government and the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) not to take the issue of illegal flexes and hoardings lightly, the High Court of Karnataka on Thursday expressed its serious displeasure over the absence of a provision in the proposed bye-law to penalise those who erect flexes and hoardings unauthorisedly in public places.

The problem of illegal flexes and advertisement faced in Bengaluru has been a bone of contention as well as a bone of suffering by all for a very long, and even in the proposed bylaws, there is no provision to penalise those who erect flexes and hoardings illegally; the Court pointed out.

PIL petition

A division bench comprising Chief Justice N.V. Anjaria and Justice K.V. Aravind made these observations while hearing the PIL petition, which the court *suo motu* had initiated in July this year on the failure of the BBMP to prevent illegal hoardings despite several directions issued by the Court in the PIL petitions, filed way back in 2017, which had complained about menace of illegal advertisement hoardings, flexes, etc., across the city.

The Bench pointed out that the bye-law 15 (1) (iii) of the proposed Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (Advertisement) Bye-laws, 2024 has a provision that states that apart from the removal of illegal hoardings erected or displayed on private property, the owner of the property is liable to pay the penalty as prescribed in the bye-law.

"However, to the dismay of the Court, the proposed bylaws do not provide any such penalty in respect of public places like footpaths, public roads, etc., except making provisions for removing them without issuing any written notice," the Bench observed.

There has to be a deterrent factor for those who indulge in the rampant erection of unauthorised advertisement hoardings and flexes to encroach upon endangering the vehicular traffic and the public at large, the Bench said while asking both the Government and the BBMP to come up with an effective response taking of dissatisfaction expressed by it.

The Bench made these remarks after going through the provisions of the BBMP (Advertisement) Bye-Laws, 2024, which the Court wanted to peruse before being finally notified in the gazette for being implemented in the city. The Court had earlier restrained the Government and the BBMP from notifying the final bylaws without its prior permission.

The court, in its earlier directions, had made it clear that "it is expected that the bylaws will inter alia include the penal stipulations which would have a deterrent effect and operate as a preventive factor against the easy-going defaulters and wrongdoers."

Further hearing adjourned till January 16, 2025.

Honour for writer

Kannada writer Devanur Mahadeva receiving Vaikom Award for Social Justice from Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Stalin and Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan at Vaikom in Kerala on Thursday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT (RELATED REPORT ON PAGE 15)

Court orders firm to pay ₹5,000 relief to consumer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A consumer court recently directed a mobile phone manufacturer, One Plus, to provide a compensation of ₹5,000 to Bengaluru-based S.M. Ramesh for taking four months to deliver the user manual for the handset of the company that he purchased.

Mr. Ramesh bought the phone on December 6, 2023, after paying a sum of ₹24,598. After noticing that the company had not provided the user manual book, he claimed that he had made multiple requests to them to provide the same. Without the manual the buyer had found it difficult to understand various features, functions and settings of the phone.

The company only provided it four months later, on April 24, 2024, after Mr. Ramesh sent a legal notice. The manual book did not contain information about the warranty and the address of the company.

This led Mr. Ramesh to file a complaint against One Plus India Technology Private Limited with the Bangalore First Additional District Consumer Court on June 3 this year. Arguing his own case, Mr Ramesh sought compensation of ₹40,000 under section 35 of the Consumer Protection Act 2019, alleging deficiency in service.

The opposing party did not come to the court despite notices being sent. The court issued its final order ex parte and ordered the company to pay ₹5,000 as compensation and ₹1,000 as cost of court proceedings to Mr. Ramesh on November 29.

Couple ends life in Alur taluk

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

A couple was found dead in a pond on their land at Kattigadde village near Palya in Alur taluk on Thursday. Natesh, 55, and his wife Chinnamma, 45, are suspected of having committed suicide, unable to bear the burden of loans. They are survived by a son and a daughter.

According to the relatives and residents of the village, they were worried about clearing loans. Their children were not at home when the incident happened. The Alur police retrieved the bodies from the pond with the help of local people.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help).

Woman kills her two children and ends life

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 35-year-old housewife strangled her two minor children before ending her life over a domestic row at her apartment in Kodigehalli on Wednesday night.

The deceased were identified as Kusuma and her six-year-old son, Shriyan, and two-year-old daughter, Charvi.

According to the police, Kusuma got married to Suresh, a private firm employee, and the couple was living with Suresh's father.

"Kusuma left a note stating that no one was responsible for this. There was no allegation made against anyone and the death note has been sent for forensic analysis for further verification," Sajeeth V.J., Deputy Commissioner of Police, (North East Division), said.

The police said the couple had a marital dispute. The incident came to light when Suresh returned home.

The Kodigehalli police registered a case of murder and suicide. Further probe has been launched to ascertain the exact cause and reason behind the deaths.

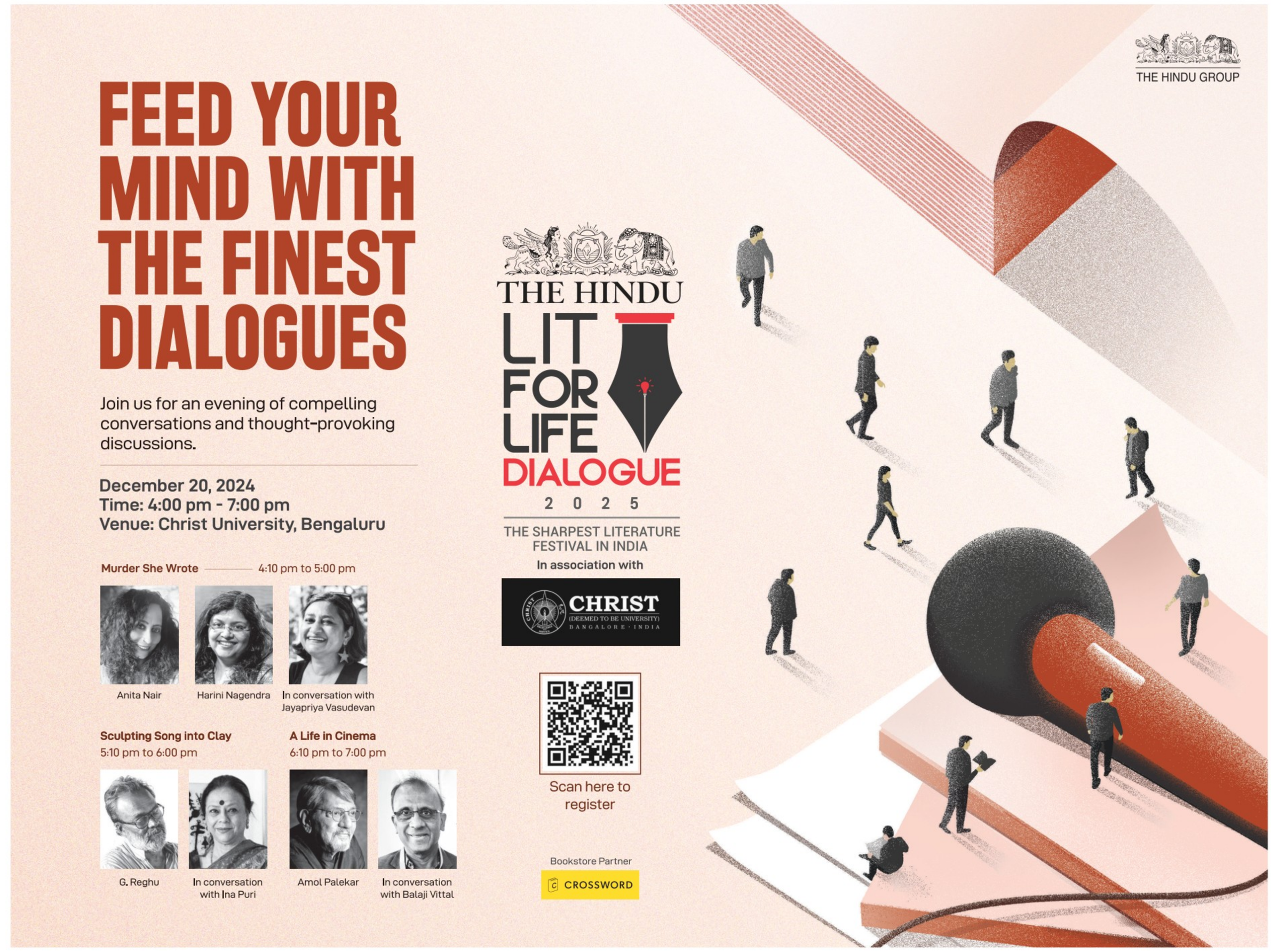
(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help).

MLC criticises Sonia for 'not condoling' death of Krishna

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

A.H. Vishwanath, MLC, has criticised senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi for "not expressing her condolences" on the death of former Chief Minister S.M. Krishna. Addressing a press conference here on Thursday Mr. Vishwanath said Krishna worked for the revival of the fortunes of the Congress for decades and brought glory to the party through many of his programmes.

"It is true that he quit the party and joined the BJP but that was a political move and one should eschew politics after the demise of a person and recall their contribution," he added. Terming the issue as saddening, the MLC said this was not something new with the Congress high command.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Sculpting Song into Clay
5:10 pm to 6:00 pm
G. Reghu
In conversation with Ina Puri
A Life in Cinema
6:10 pm to 7:00 pm
Amol Palekar
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Illustration: Sebastian Francis

Karnataka students explore the globe for higher studies

Educational consultants have noticed that students now prefer non-traditional destinations like Ireland, Germany, smaller European countries, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Russia, and even China for their higher studies. **Jahnavi R.** looks at the factors that have driven this choice

In the early 2000s, as the IT industry boomed in Bengaluru, it also set the trend of engineering students going abroad for higher studies, mainly to the United States and Canada. Slowly, as decades rolled, the United Kingdom and Australia also emerged as top countries for higher education as even non-engineering students in streams like pure science, marketing and management hopped on flights.

As the years rolled on, student preferences changed – right from their choice of destination to the subjects they chose. These decisions were also influenced by geopolitical tensions, visa constraints, job availability, and financial constraints. Educational consultants have noticed that students now prefer non-traditional destinations like Ireland, Germany, smaller European countries, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Russia, and even China.

> Students are increasingly choosing newer destinations for various reasons, the primary one being better job prospects.
>
> **PRASHANT A. BHONSLE**
> Founder of Kuhoo Edufintech

Difficulty in getting admission in India is one of the reaons for students to look abroad. FILE PHOTO

According to External Affairs Ministry data earlier this year, as of 2024, around 1.33 million Indian students were pursuing higher studies abroad in 101 countries. This figure is a jump from 0.93 million in 2023. While Canada, the US, the UK and Australia had the highest number of students, Germany, UAE, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia and Kazakhstan followed.

"There was a time when if someone in our circle went abroad for higher education, it used to be a big thing, and everyone would celebrate it. But now, at least one person from every alternate household in Bengaluru goes abroad for education, and sometimes, it is to countries like the Philippines or Ireland, which were not even known for higher education a few years ago," said Padmini Vilas, a retired schoolteacher from the city.

Why changed choice

Many educational consultancies, as well as educational finance organisations, note an increase of 35-40% in the number of students from Bengaluru who evince interest in newer destinations.

"Students are increasingly choosing newer destinations for various reasons, the primary one being better job prospects," said Prashant A. Bhonsle, founder of Kuhoo Edufintech.

Supriya M. chose Ireland as her destination after completing her engineering in Bengaluru. "The entry process to an Irish university was easier, and I was placed in a good tech company by the time I finished my master's. I had not received such good placement opportunities even in Bengaluru and so I was pleasantly surprised by how smoothly things moved here," she said.

With the job market reaching near saturation levels in traditional destinations, many students have found that even if they get placed in the US or the UK, the companies transfer them to countries like the UAE, smaller European countries or even back to India. This is why destinations like Ireland, Germany, France and Italy, where job opportunities are more available, even in non-STEM courses are being preferred by students and parents.

"After finishing my master's in Bengaluru, I moved to the UK for another master's degree as I wanted to secure a job there. I worked for two years after finishing my studies there. I was due to renew my visa in 2025, and I was not happy with the job I had, so I started looking for other options. But with the current economic situation there, I could not find a job in my field, and I ultimately made the decision to come back to India and apply for jobs in other less saturated countries," said Kaveri (name changed), a healthcare worker. She said that based on her experience, her younger cousin is now going to study business in Hungary.

Education cost

Elaborating on the financial aspect of these decisions, Prashant said, "The cost of education in these emerging locations is significantly lower than in existing, popular hubs like the UK and the US. This affordability makes higher education more accessible to a wider range of students."

While a two-year post-graduation course in the US costs around ₹60 lakh to 70 lakh, a similar course in France costs ₹45 lakh to 50 lakh and in UAE, it costs ₹20 lakh to ₹25 lakh. In the UK, a one-year post-graduation course will cost around ₹25 lakh to ₹30 lakh, while the same costs ₹18 lakh to ₹23 lakh in Ireland.

Geopolitical considerations also play a role, said Prashant. "Many students perceive the political climate in these newer destinations more favourable and welcoming compared to that of traditionally popular countries."

Apart from these reasons, marks/percentage cut-offs at top universities in the US and the UK are also a reason for students choosing other destinations. "Top universities there ask for over 75% grades in 10th and 12th classes, which many do not have. So, they choose programmes which do not have such strict cut-offs. The other factor is that these countries also require students to pass exams like TOEFL, which proves to be a hurdle for some," said Farhan Huda, a foreign education consultant.

Higher competition

Even though foreign education is costlier and requires a lot of leg work and a complete lifestyle change, why do students prefer to go abroad?

Nabihah, a Bengaluru student, was studying medicine in Ukraine for two years before the war broke out and she had to come back to India. Today, she is in her third year of medical studies in Uzbekistan. When asked why she chose not to continue her studies in India upon her return, her parents said, "If she wanted to study here, I would have had to pay a huge sum as a donation for a seat because of the stiff competition. Instead, she got a seat in a top college in Uzbekistan, which costs significantly less. Plus, every year break, she gets to come back here and work at a hospital for one month, which adds to her practical knowledge."

Students who wish to pursue medicine prefer admission to universities outside India due to the difficulties they face in securing seats here because of the competition. Countries like Uzbekistan, the Philippines, and Mauritius are the preferred destinations. While Ukraine was one such destination too, now most students who came back from there have chosen to go to Uzbekistan, Russia or Malaysia according to education consultants. Samarkand State Medical University in Uzbekistan reportedly got 900 Indian admissions this academic year.

For students in other streams, it is about the quality of education and life in other countries. "Many go abroad because the quality of higher education in India is not great, except in the top 10 universities. But even in smaller countries like Cyprus, which is preferred by students of hotel management and other management streams, universities offer quality education with excellent English-speaking faculty," Farhan explained.

Option of jobs

Job opportunities in smaller countries might not be as promising as in larger countries like France or Germany, but students do not seem to mind, says Farhan. "We have seen students take up jobs in housekeeping, driving or even chain restaurants. While Indian parents typically look down on such jobs in India, their children take up such jobs there as they get paid in dollars and pounds and can become self-sufficient. So, they finish their education, get a lot of exposure to international crowds, take up well-paying jobs and settle down in such countries. We rarely see students who go abroad come back to India," he said.

Many countries also seek Indian students after seeing the impact the diaspora has created in traditional study destinations.

"Many, even traditionally non-English-speaking countries are starting English language programmes to attract Indians because they want the contribution of Indians to their economy. So, we are seeing English Language Programmes in Germany, in Japan, in South Korea," said Rahul Subramaniam, Co-Founder of Athena Education, a consultancy.

Satellite campuses

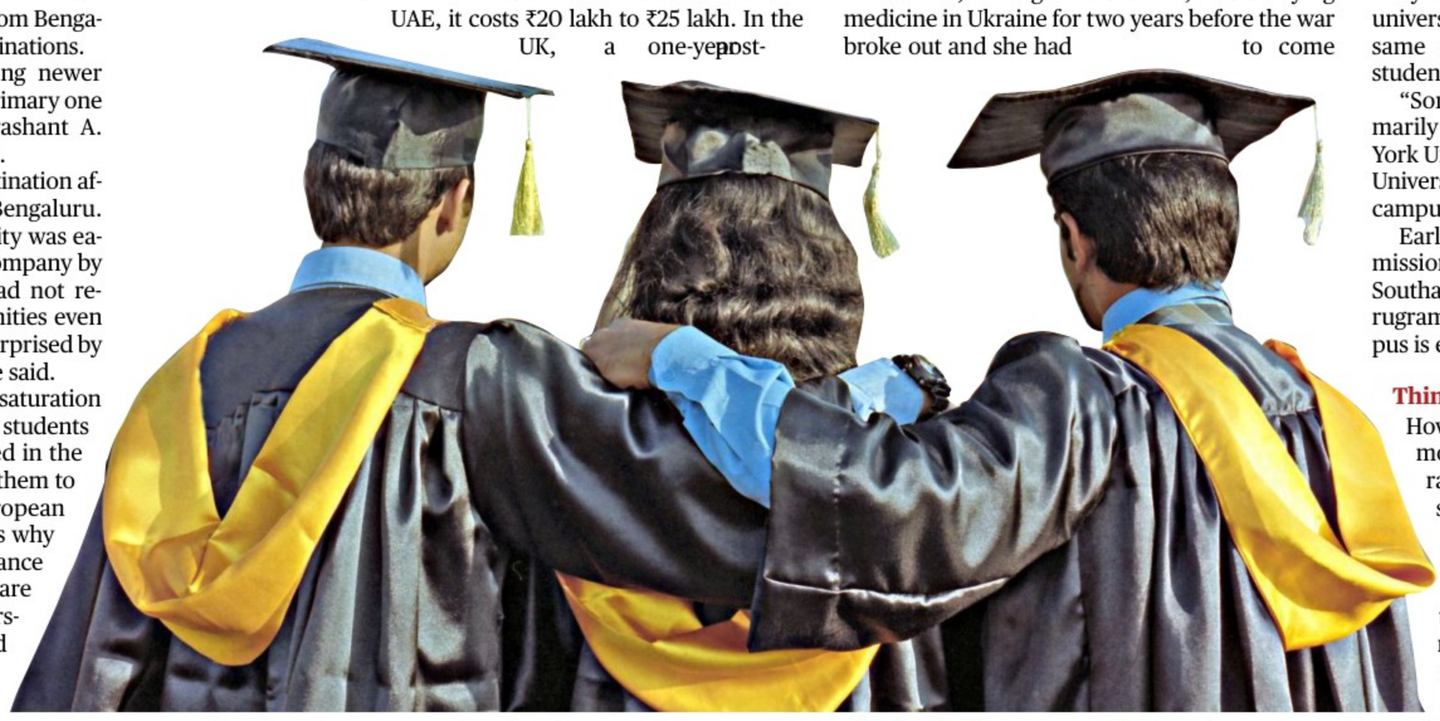
Satellite campuses of popular US universities are also becoming popular among Indian students. They are usually established in tie-ups with local universities or even independently and offer the same quality of education and exposure to students.

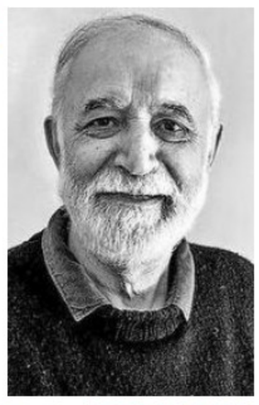
"Some of these campuses are coming up primarily in the Gulf countries. For example, New York University is in Abu Dhabi, and Georgetown University is in Doha. In fact, Duke has a satellite campus, Duke Kunshan, in China," Rahul noted.

Earlier this year, the University Grants Commission gave its nod to the UK's University of Southampton to set up its satellite campus in Gurugram. The academic programme on this campus is expected to begin by July 2025.

Thinking multi-cultural

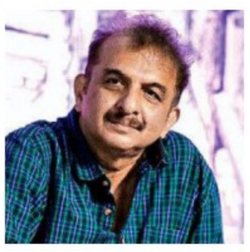
However, Rahul added that families must move out of rigid mindsets, think multiculturally and be more flexible while choosing study destinations. "A part of college admissions is the status of it. Some might feel that these satellite campuses are not as good as the ones in the US, but I beg to differ. I would encourage families to be more flexible as these could provide wonderful prospects for students' professional careers," he remarked.





Writer's block Scenes from BLF 2023, (clockwise from left) MK Raina, Upmanyu Chatterjee, Namita Gokhale, Jayant Kaikini, Jahnavi Barua and Ed Smith (below) will be at BLF 2024. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Bangalore Literature Festival is back. Keep an eye out for these authors, speakers and sessions



Get booked

Ruth Dhanaraj
ruth.dhanaraj@thehindu.co.in

Three Ambassadors Walk into a Book Fest – no, this is not the opening line of a rib-tickler, it is one of the segments of this year's Bangalore Literature Festival (BLF). The 13th edition of BLF, the two-day event will see the participation of as many as 350 Indian, global and city authors and speakers, cutting across diverse genres, languages and topics.

For instance, the above mentioned segment includes the Dominican Republic Ambassador to India David Puig, Ambassador of Spain in India, Juan Antonio March, and Australian High Commissioner to India, Philip Green. "David Puig is a humorous poet with a keen interest in astrology," says Srikrishna Ramamoorthy, one of the founders of BLF.

"Bangalore is so far removed from Delhi, we don't see too many international diplomats interacting with residents. There is usually just a small consulate and not a full-fledged embassy office here, hence, we rarely get to see them at social events. We invited them as speakers as we thought audiences would enjoy listening to the other side of those who live public lives," he added.

This year's lineup of authors at BLF includes two Nobel laureates – economist Abhijit Banerjee and Venki Ramakrishnan. "Surprisingly, Abhijit is our guest because of the cookbook he has penned, and though Venki's field is chemistry, his book *Why We Die: And How We Live*, is on the science of longevity and mortality. Considering how much effort and capital we put into working out how we can live longer, his will be an interesting talk."

While the BLF is usually not structured around a theme, an emerging thread for this year's edition seems to be science and science writing, says Srikrishna, adding, "It is great for a city such as Bangalore considering the many science and research institutes that have a base here."

Two of the speakers in this segment include Simon Singh, author of *The Simpsons and Their Mathematical Secrets* and Anil Ananthaswamy of *Why Machines Learn: The Elegant Math Behind Modern AI* fame, while Bengaluru-based Lavanya Lakshminarayan is an author from the science fiction section.

Being a literature festival, there are bound to be writers of fiction as well as translated works, in the mix. According to Srikrishna, Kannada and Malayalam authors are at the forefront this year as well as a few Oriya and Gujarati writers, "who are a rarity in Bangalore which usually sees Hindi and Urdu works take prominence."

"We have found that translations are becoming quite popular as they make Indian works much more accessible," he adds. The Malayalam writers at this year's BLF include Sheela Tomy, AJ Thomas, VJ James and Sandhya Mary, as well as Gujarati novelist Devangi Bhatt and Odia writer Manu Dash.

"This year, there are three people in social development space who have had books come out – R Balasubramaniam from rural Karnataka, activist Aruna Roy and Jack Sim a.k.a Mr. Toilet from Singapore, who is working for the cause of global sanitation. All three are engaging speakers."

The Queer Caravan, conceptualised by The Queer Muslim Project in partnership with the Goethe-Institut and the French Institute in India, "bring together storytellers and artists from France, Germany, and India who hail from the LGBTQIA+ community" to this edition of BLF. "This initiative gives those voices a platform and fosters cross-cultural dialogue."

As always, there will be LitMart and ScreenLit for aspiring authors and screenwriters, as well as a special section for children, which will have workshops, magic shows, theatre and storytelling, apart from sessions on sustainability as well. Both days of the festival will have their share of cultural performances.

This year too, there will be free shuttle buses from Vidhan Soudha metro station to the venue at regular intervals, apart from a paid parking facility at Prestige Trade Tower (next to Sophia High School) along with a shuttle service from there to the venue.

The Bangalore Literature Festival is part of BLR Hubba and is from 9am to 7.30pm on December 14 and 15, at Hotel LaLiT Ashok. Entry free, but registration is recommended. Details at www.blrlitfest.org

Sneak peek

INTERNATIONAL AUTHORS

- **Silver Linings Playbook: On Mental Health** Malaysian author Aneeta Sundararaj, Shefali Batra, Vijay Nagaswami, Amrita Tripathi (December 14)
- **Black to the Future** Nigerian-origin British author Irenosen Okojie with Australian author Catherine McNamara (December 15)
- **Holding On, Letting Go: The Art of Grieving** British author AT Boyle and BLF founder Shinie Antony with Shantanu Ray Chaudhuri (December 15)

BENGALURU AUTHORS:

- **The Ooru Files: Crime in the City** Author Madhavi Mahadevan with Harish Vasudevan, Harini Nagendra and Unmana (December 14)
- **To Every Parent, To Every School** Author V Raghunathan and Meena Raghunathan, with Sadhana Rao (December 15)
- **Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them** Author Shabbeer Ahmed, K Hari Kumar and Kiran Manral, with Anuja Chandramouli (December 15)

STEPOUT

Just for Christmas

Maverick & Farmer has launched a Christmas menu to ring in the festive cheer. From candy canes and a Christmas blend Coffee-tini (velvety espresso with cold-foamed cocoa and a minty burst) to Comfort And Joy, a cosy-mulled cascara simmered with festive spices, these are some drinks on offer celebrate the season.
Available till December 31, at Maverick & Farmer outlets on Cunningham Road, Ulsoor and Kormangala

Ring in the cheer

Orion Mall, Brigade Gateway, is hosting a Grand Beer Festival on December 14 and 15. Open between 2pm and 1am, it offers a curated selection of the finest international and home-grown beer brands — from timeless classics to the more recently launched brands. Early birds will get to enoy one complimentary beer.
At Orion Mall, Brigade Gateway. Entry fee is ₹250

Bengaluru in stories

Discover the heart of Bengaluru through *BANGALOREAN*, a book that delves into the lives of its people — rickshaw drivers, royalty, techies, and artisans. This collection of personal narratives reflects the city's transformation into a global tech hub, highlighting its rich culture and enduring spirit.
On December 15, from 5pm at Museum of Art and Photography. Entry is free.

An evening of Sufi

The KM Sufi Ensemble bring soul-stirring qawwalis this weekend

Heart and soul Members of the KM Sufi Ensemble SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Indian Music Experience Museum (IME) is set to present *Kun Faya Kun* by the KM Sufi Ensemble, a musical group from AR Rahman's KM Music Conservatory, marking their debut in Bengaluru.

The 16-member ensemble will showcase Qawwali, a 700-year-old Sufi devotional music tradition. Featuring timeless pieces such as *Khwaja Mere Khwaja*, *Kun Faya Kun*, and *Zikr*, as well as traditional qawwalis like *Man Kunto Maula* and *Dum Mast Qalandar*, the performance aims to celebrate the coming together of rhythm, poetry, and devotion that defines Qawwali.

Preema John, Director of IME, says, "Hosting AR Rahman's KM Sufi Ensemble is a dream come true. Qawwali's blend of clapping, poetry, and melody creates a profound spiritual experience. This concert will spotlight beloved qawwalis popularised by Hindi cinema and traditional pieces that guide listeners on a journey to the divine."

Fathima Rafiq, Executive Director of KM Music Conservatory and sister of AR Rahman, adds, "Sufi Qawwali speaks to the soul, with a message of peace, unity, and spiritual awakening. It's an honour to bring this sacred music to Bangalore, fulfilling the vision of our founder."

The KM Music Conservatory is a music education institute that aims to blend cultural heritage with contemporary expression and this concert underscores its mission to promote diverse musical traditions.

Kun Faya Kun is on December 15, 6.30pm at the Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Kanakapura Road. Tickets on BookMyShow.

Surround sound Shakthisree Gopalan and her Sound Garden. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shakthisree Gopalan's SoundGarden brings a multi-sensory play to Bengaluru

A beautiful shower thought

Praveen S
praveen.s@thehindu.co.in

As a child, Shakthisree Gopalan's family used to tease her for taking what she calls "ridiculously long showers". When she would finally emerge, her mind would be full of thoughts and ideas. One such shower thought, as it turns out, has grown into her most cherished passion project: SoundGarden, a multi-sensory, interactive installation that invites people to play with sound, light, and space.

What is SoundGarden?

At its heart, SoundGarden is an immersive, interactive audio-visual experience that transforms sound into something you can touch, see, and co-create. The space is filled with glowing orbs – creature-like, according to Shakthisree.

When someone approaches or touches an orb, it lights up and emits sound, each orb possessing a unique sample.

"It's like being in a forest," she explains, "You might see a bunch of pink flowers and gravitate toward them. Then you'd explore yellow ones or follow the hum of insects. I wanted to recreate that, but with sound. The idea of people moving through a space, affecting sound, and having the sound respond to them felt so beautiful."

Each orb interacts differently. Some respond to touch with a single sound; others sustain until tapped again. Their light brightens or changes colour, creating a tangible link between what visitors see, hear, and do.

From a technical perspective, SoundGarden is no small feat. Shakthisree worked closely with Leonard Pauli, a creative technologist (whom she calls the co-parent of this project), and a group of ECE students to bring the installation to life. "There were endless challenges – figuring out sensors, scalability, proximity detection," she recalls. "We tested so many possibilities, from infrared to capacitance, to see what worked best. But that's the joy of it – rapid prototyping and discovery."

A philosophy of play

At its core, SoundGarden is not just about sound or light; it is about play. Shakthisree believes that play is something adults desperately need to rediscover. "When we're kids, we meet someone on a playground, and it's so natural–someone tosses you a ball, you toss it back. No instructions needed," she says, "But as adults, we play less. We don't reach out, touch, and explore for fear of mistakes. This project is about breaking down that fear."

The installation creates an environment where there are no wrong notes, no missed chords. Everything harmonises.

Shakthisree describes it as "a multiplayer game" where participants can collaborate, much like jamming in a band. In doing so, they co-create a "sonic landscape" unique to their 15-minute session in the space.

"It's like leaving sonic footprints," she says. "We're even recording these sessions, so it's like a group photo – but with sound instead of visuals."

Dream realised

SoundGarden first came to life at the Under 25 Summit in Bengaluru last year. "It was overwhelming," Shakthisree admits, "The space wasn't designed for such a large crowd, but seeing how people experienced it was amazing."

For its next iteration, SoundGarden is evolving. Shakthisree and her team have fine-tuned the experience, ensuring that the space accommodates smaller groups to maintain a sense of intimacy and exploration. The installation will appear at Sabha BLR in Shivaji Nagar, as part of the BLR Hubba, a festival open to all.

"The idea has grown so much since the first version," Shakthisree says. "It's like a band rehearsing – you can't fully anticipate how an audience will react until the show happens."

You can experience Sound Garden for free at Sabha BLR in Shivaji Nagar on December 13, from 7 pm to 8 pm. For booking and more information, visit blrhubba.in.

Panchamasali issue rocks both Houses

BJP demands that the govt. apologise to the community, while Home Minister remains firm, saying no police official exceeded their brief

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

There was pandemonium in both Houses of the legislature on Thursday as the BJP demanded an inquiry into the lathi-charge on protesters seeking reclassification in reservation for Panchamasali-Lingayat sect, in front of Suvarna Soudha.

The government, however, refused to budge on the issue, resulting in walkout by BJP members in the Legislative Assembly.

In a charged debate on the issue, which saw both ruling and Opposition members clashing frequently, BJP leaders alleged that protocol had been violated and blamed the police for "high handedness" to disperse the crowd even as the government defended the action.

Home Minister G. Parameshwara announced in the Assembly that there was no need for an inquiry into the incident and no action would be initiated against any police officials.

"We have video proof to show who pelted stones and footwear. All evidence is before us. No official went beyond their brief. I do not think any officer is wrong. Whoever violates law, we deal with them with strict action," the Home Minister said during the discussion on the issue.

Seeking action: Opposition leaders on their feet protesting over the Panchamasali issue in the Legislative Assembly in Belagavi on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

IN THE LEGISLATURE

Communal remarks

Earlier, raising the heat with communal-laced remarks, which plunged the House into disorder on multiple occasions, BJP member Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal claimed: "We are not terrorists nor are we stone or petrol bomb pelters. Who uses petrol bomb or pelt stones in this country? Why were tractors carrying Panchamasalis barred from entering Belagavi? The ADGP who ordered the lathi-charge was in civil dress and violated all established protocols to order the action."

Referring to the reservation demand for Panchamasali community, he asked, "Is the 4 % reservation [for Muslims] in category 2B [for backward classes] constitutionally valid?" He further alleged that the Chief Minister was misleading and appeasing one community.

When Mr. Yatnal threatened to write to the Union Home Minister Amit Shah against the police official, the Home Minister took objection. Leader of Opposition R. Ashok and other BJP members demanded that the government apologise to the Panchamasali community and also order a judicial probe, besides initiating action against the police.

Yatnal praises Shah

Mr. Yatnal went on to claim that it was Mr. Shah who had cracked the Panchamasali reservation impasse when the BJP government, headed by Basavaraj Bommai, diverted 4% reservation given to Muslims under 2B category among Lingayats and Muslims.

"He [Mr. Shah] felt that injustice cannot be meted out to those in category 2 A, which has 104 castes." Mr. Yatnal, who has been served a show-cause notice for indiscipline, said multiple times that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mr. Shah were inclined to provide reservation for Panchamasalis.

In Legislative Council, Opposition members, who sought more time for discussion on the issue, resorted to protest, forcing adjournment of the House. They withdrew their stir after Chairman Basavaraj Horatti said that he would allow the debate on Friday.

RSS held responsible

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Congress members have accused the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) of being behind the stone-pelting that resulted in injury to 25 police personnel and the police resorting to lathi-charge to which the BJP members took exception to.

Congress member Vijayanand Kashappanavar termed the Panchamasali community's protest as a BJP-sponsored one and accused BJP leaders of misguiding Panchamasali peetha seer Basava Jayamruthyunjaya Swami.

"The RSS is responsible for stone-throwing on the police and the BJP has to be blamed for the lathi-charge on the protesters," he said.

Though Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok urged Speaker U.T. Khader to expunge the remarks on the RSS, ruling party members, including Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge and Home Minister G. Parameshwara, suggested to the Chair that they could be expunged only if they are ruled as unparliamentary. "Is it (RSS) unparliamentary?" Mr. Kharge asked. BJP members walked out of the House raising pro-RSS slogans.

Lad denies allegation of 'planned' lathi-charge

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Charges of Basava Jayamruthyunjaya Swami are baseless, says Minister

Labour Minister Santosh Lad has denied allegations that the State government planned a lathi-charge on the activists who participated in the Panchamasali reservation agitation committee protest in Belagavi on Tuesday.

To a query by reporters, he said this was among the few baseless allegations made by Basava Jayamruthyunjaya Swami, honorary president of the committee. "The police have already clarified that they had to resort to lathi-charge to stop the forceful storming of the Suvarna Soudha by the irate protesters. No government does that (planned use of brute force). What do we get by such an action? We only get a bad name. It is a false allegation," he said.

He also said that the seer's allegation that the plainclothes policemen had pelted stones to frame the protesters was baseless and meaningless. "Has the seer spoken about the anti-farmer moves of the Central government? Has he spoke against the death of several farmers' leaders in New Delhi? It is because he is not being fair?" the Minister asked.

'Will benefit others too'

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

During the discussion on the lathi-charge on Panchamasli protesters and the issue of reservation for the community under category 2A, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Arvind Bellad and Vijayapura legislator Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal set the larger narrative of the reservation helping many communities. Both leaders spoke of how the creation of the new category by the previous BJP government would help Vokkaligas, Reddys, Bunts, Marathas, and Lingayats. "We are not fighting for our benefits only," said Mr. Bellad.

PDO exam: Action after KPSC panel gives report, says CM

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

He categorically denies any paper leak or delayed start to the exam

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday said the government would take action based on the report of the three-member sub-committee constituted by the Karnataka Public Services Commission (KPSC) to look into the alleged paper leak in the PDO recruitment examination conducted to fill 97 posts in Kalyana Karnataka.

Replying to a question by BJP member Sashil Namoshi in the Legislative Council about the alleged delay in conducting the examination and paper leak, Mr. Siddaramaiah categorically denied any paper leak or delayed start to the examination.

The Chief Minister said that 840 candidates wrote the examination at the Government PU College in Sindhanur and 12 of them made the allegation about question paper leak, creating confusion among other candidates also.

Following the incident, cases were booked against 12 candidates. Maintaining that there was no leak or delay, he, however, said the KPSC had already constituted a sub-committee and based on its report further action would be taken. Mr. Namoshi insisted that there was a delay in giving question papers and an additional half an hour was given to the candidates, the Chief Minister said that based on the report of the sub-committee action would be taken.

Guarantees have not hit development: Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday categorically stated that development in Karnataka had not been affected owing to the guarantee schemes and a total of ₹2,14,292 crore had been spent on various development works during 2023-24.

Replying to the query by K.A. Thippeswamy in the Legislative Council on Thursday, Mr. Siddaramaiah said that for the implementation of the guarantee schemes a budgetary allocation of ₹52,009 crore had been made.

Within fiscal norms

The Chief Minister said that the State government had availed itself a loan of ₹90,280 crore and the fiscal deficit was at 2.6%, which was within the permissible limits of the parameters fixed by the State and Union governments.

He further clarified that the government was not facing any additional burden because of the guarantee schemes and that there was no truth in the allegation made by the Opposition that the development had been affected because of these schemes.

Defending schemes: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah speaking in the Legislative Council on Thursday.

11 Bills, including one to empower CM to appoint VC of rural development university, tabled

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Legislative Assembly on Thursday saw the tabling of 11 Bills, including the one that seeks to hand over the power of appointment of Vice-Chancellor of the Karnataka State Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University to the Chief Minister, taking it away from the Governor.

The Karnataka State Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University (Amendment) Bill, which was tabled by RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge, seeks to appoint the Chief Minister as the Chancellor. It also seeks to give him the power to choose the Vice-Chancellor from the panel of three names suggested by a search committee.

The Bills that were tabled included the BBMP (Second Amendment) Bill and the Karnataka Protection of Interest of Depositors in Financial Establishments Bill.

The other Bills that were tabled were the Karnataka GST (Second Amendment) Bill, Karnataka Tourism Ropeway Bill, Basavanabagewadi Development Authority Bill, Karnataka Motor Vehicle Taxation (Second Amendment) Bill, Karnataka Labour Welfare Fund Bill, Karnataka Universities Bill, Chanakya University (Amendment) Bill, and Karnataka Groundwater (Regulation and Control of Development and Management) (Amendment) Bill.

When are you going to 'kick the door' to get the CM's post? Opposition asks Shivakumar

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's remarks that the ministerial post did not come to him on a platter even in the Cabinet of S.M. Krishna, though he was his trusted lieutenant and that he got the post by "kicking the door", paved the way for a speculative debate in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday with the Opposition asking him when he is going to "kick the door" now to become the Chief Minister.

Back in 1999

The issue came up when Mr. Shivakumar was recalling the formation of the ministry by Krishna after winning the Assembly election in 1999, while paying homage to him in the House. He was saying he had to fight to get the ministerial post, contrary to the general perception that his position as a Minister in the Krishna Cabinet was a forgone conclusion considering his proximity to him.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar in the Legislative Assembly.

"I played a crucial role as an Independent MLA when P.V. Narasimha Rao was the Prime Minister to get the Rajya Sabha ticket for Krishna. Later, when he became the KPCC president, I stood with him. On his part, Krishna too trusted me completely. In fact, it was I who finalised the list of Ministers to be sworn-in through consultations with Krishna as I was his trusted lieutenant and forwarded it to the high command. But I was shocked to learn the night before the swearing-in ceremony that my name was missing from the list of Ministers to be sworn-in, which had got the final approval," he said.

"The astrologer whom I consult told me that I am not going to get the ministerial post on a platter and I have to barge in. I literally did it by rushing to Krishna's residence late in the night and kicking the door. Krishna and his family tried to convince me saying that I would be inducted sometime later. But I told them clearly that they cannot go ahead with the swearing-in ceremony without inducting me. I stood my ground and finally Krishna managed to convince the party high command to induct me into the ministry," Mr. Shivakumar said.

Taking a cue from his remarks, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok immediately intervened and asked him, "When are you going to kick the door now to get the chief ministerial post?" This was in an obvious reference to speculation that there is a power-sharing agreement between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar according to which he may get the chief ministerial post later.

The Opposition members thumped the desks and urged him to reply to this. As Mr. Shivakumar paused for some time, Mr. Ashok said: "I also know your astrologer. He has indicated to me that you need to again kick the door to get the chief ministerial post and that you have to get it by January 2025 itself as your stars are not good later."

Switching sides

Responding to this in a lighter vein, Mr. Shivakumar said, "If I tell you what my astrologer has told me, you will be shocked. Over 30 MLAs from the BJP may switch political sides." To this, Mr. Ashok remarked, "It could be an indication that you may join the BJP and they would be supporting you."

CAG: Health policy implementation was inadequate for 2016-22

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India on Public Health Infrastructure and Management of Health Services has observed that the implementation of the Karnataka Integrated Public Health Policy was inadequate as norms were either not prescribed or the existing national norms were not adopted.

In the instances where norms were prescribed, they were not in accordance with the national norms, stated the report that was tabled in the State legislature on Thursday. The report covers the period 2016-22.

The policy aimed to attain the highest possible level of good health and well-being of people in the State to be realised through a preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative healthcare orientation, with universal access to quality and affordable healthcare services to all and inclusion of health in all development policies.

The report has also observed that the State government's manpower norms fell short of the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS), particularly for hospitals with over 300 beds, where staffing requirements were not specified.

There was a lack of systematic analysis to revise staff numbers, with no action plan to address identified gaps, it pointed out. Vacancies for doctors, nurses, paramedics, and others ranged from 29% to 53%, with significant disparities across different hospital tiers under Health and Family Welfare Department, the report noted.

Shortage of doctors

"Shortage of doctors was particularly pronounced in tertiary care facilities. AYUSH hospitals faced an overall vacancy of 59%, raising concerns about service quality," the report said.

Maternity services were affected by shortage of staff, shortage of drugs and non-availability of the prescribed pathological investigation in all the test-checked health institutes. The average still berth rate was between zero and 44.19 in the test-checked hospitals, the report sated.

'₹9.45 crore recovered in digital fraud cases'

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Thursday said that an amount of ₹9.45 crore lost in digital fraud cases had been recovered and 27 fraudsters arrested so far in the current financial year.

Replying to a question by BJP member K. Pratapsimha Nayak on digital arrest and other frauds, mentioning that there was an increase in the number of digital arrest cases, the Home Minister said that across the country 42,000 digital fraud cases were reported last year and in Karnataka alone 11,000 such cases were reported.

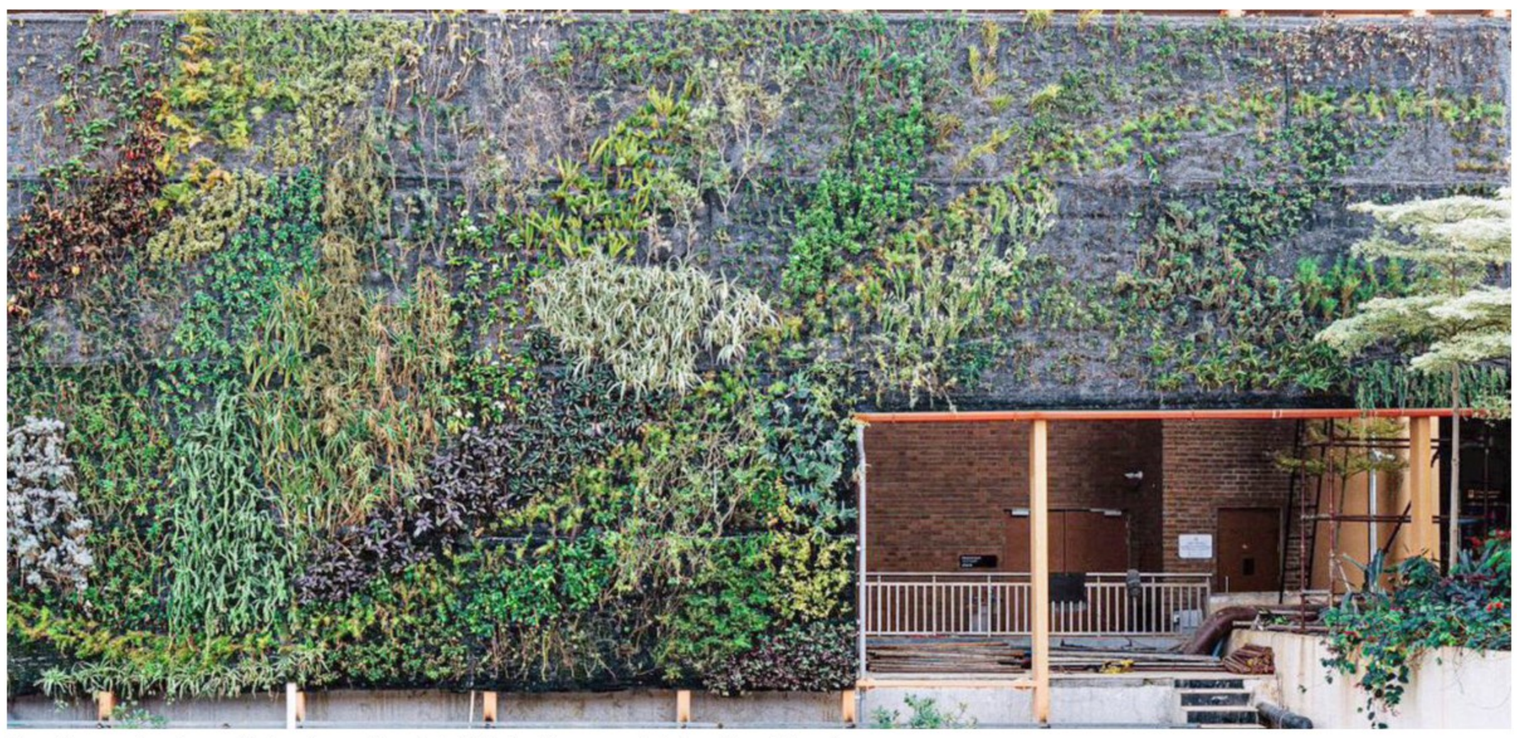
641 cases

The Home Minister said during the current fiscal year, 641 cases of digital fraud had been reported in Karnataka, in which gullible persons had lost ₹109 crore.

After taking up investigation into these cases, 268 Facebook groups, 465 Telegram groups, 15 Instagram groups, and 61 WhatsApp groups that were used to cheat people had been deactivated, he said.

‘There are so many beautiful Indian native species that are not yet used for vertical gardens’

Renowned botanist Patrick Blanc–whose ‘Tiger Wings’ project was recently opened at the KIA–lists Kodagu, Nilgiris, Darjeeling, and Sanjay Gandhi National Park among his favourite green spots in India



Tiger Wings, a stunning vertical garden wall located within the Kempegowda International Airport. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Hari Marar, CEO BIAL , and Botanist Patrick Blanc at BIAL.

K.C. Deepika
BENGALURU

It’s hard for anyone to stand out at an airport terminal termed as a “terminal in a garden.” Yet, instead of blending in with the carefully landscaped greenery, renowned botanist Patrick Blanc stands out with his all-green ensemble- from hair dyed green to his shirt, neckpiece, trousers, down to his green shoes.

As people - ranging from journalists to horticulture and landscaping professionals and students - clamour to get a picture with him against the backdrop of his newest project at the T2, Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), Bengaluru, Patrick obliges them all.

The project, ‘Tiger Wings,’ a 30-feet-high, 160-feet-wide installation at the KIA T2, has two walls each of 80 feet boasting of over 15,000 plants across 153 species, many native to Karnataka and the Western Ghats. The wings represent the aeroplane wings, while the tiger was chosen as it is the national animal of India. The concept of ‘tiger wings’ will come alive when the flowering begins, as asparagus plants trace the silhouette of the aeroplane wings, while red, orange, yellow, and white Ixora flowers will represent the tiger’s signature pattern.

Biggest project

This is Patrick’s biggest project in India and the only one after the French Embassy in New Delhi, which was over two decades ago.

In a conversation with *The Hindu*, the man who is touted to be the “inventor of the vertical garden,” spoke about his first project, his favourite spots in India, and how vertical gardening can survive the impacts of climate change.

He recalled that it was his research on tropical plants growing in forest understory receiving only about 1% of full sunlight, during his PhD course in Botany at the Paris University, that inspired his first project.

Patrick Blanc observing the spherical inflorescences of Neolamarckia (syn. Anthocephalus) cadamba on the Kinabatangan river, Sabah, Borneo, July 2022. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

“Many of these plants are growing on rocks or tree trunks, which means almost without soil, their roots are growing superficially in the thin layer of mosses. That is what inspired me to create vertical gardens with a thin layer of felt which is similar to mosses on rocks. I created my first vertical garden at the Museum of Sciences and Technology in Paris in 1986,” he said.

At the unveiling of ‘Tiger Wings’ recently, he made his displeasure known about most vertical gardens restricting themselves to a handful of species. India, he pointed out, is a huge country with many different climates - from lowland perhumid climate like in South Kerala, to fresh hill climate like Bengaluru, dry climate in Rajasthan or mountain climate like around Darjeeling or in Meghalaya.

> For vertical gardens, it is always much better to use plant species that are naturally growing on shaded rocks, exposed cliffs or growing on tree trunks
> **PATRICK BLANC**

“This means that the plant species thriving in these different climates are not the same. There are so many beautiful Indian native species which are not yet used for vertical gardens and landscaping and this is an open field for new research in order to increase the species selection. For vertical gardens, it is always much better to use plant species that are naturally growing on shaded rocks, exposed cliffs or growing on tree trunks. Among the genera of native Indian plants which are totally under considered, I can mention Strobilanthes, Impatiens and Sonerila for shaded or fully exposed situations depending on the species,” he said.

For his Bengaluru airport installation too, Patrick said that he visited several forests in the Western Ghats, selecting rare plant species from these diverse ecosystems to ensure that the wall features species native to the region.

He picked “the fresh hilly areas” of Kodagu district in Karnataka, the Nilgiris, around Darjeeling and the Sanjay Gandhi National Park among his favourite green spots in India, but added, “In fact, any place in the world where you can find large areas of untouched vegetation are my favourite places.”

Relaxing effect

When asked what the relevant agencies should be keeping in mind while landscaping public spaces, he said the most important is to acknowledge that the plants will have a relaxing effect on people if they are healthy and growing for many years.

“For instance, it is a pity to see most vertical gardens with so few species, usually only 10 to 20, all of the same size and cut down or changed as soon as they are growing. These fixed vertical gardens are a kind of vertical green tapestry very different from a living situation in a forest. The effects of relaxation on people and purification of the air can be obtained only if you leave the plants growing freely according to their natural architecture. Instead of a green carpet, a three-dimensional vertical garden becomes a kind of natural ecosystem where butterflies and birds come for nesting or drinking nectar or even eating small fruits. These visions will encourage the children to learn more about plants and protection of the environment,” he said.

Staying with protection of the environment, Patrick speaks about the impact of climate change on vertical gardens, a topic he has published a research paper on. He says that climate change by itself is not a problem for plants as the plant kingdom contains species that have adapted to all the types of climates - coldest to the hottest and from the darkest, such as cave entrances, to the most well-lit, such as open savannas.

Knowing botany

“It is important to have botanical knowledge of the plant species according to their native environment in order to select the right species for each project. Too often, you see side by side species originating from different types of environment, and some of them will not survive. Considering the climate evolution, we will face recurrent dryness and higher temperatures and this is accentuated in the big cities. We thus need more species to be able to thrive with these higher temperatures and dryness of the air, but hopefully there are many species that are able to grow both in horizontal and vertical situations, especially species from the central Deccan plateau in India,” he said.

He also stressed on the importance of recycling excess water: “The advantage of a vertical garden is that only the useful water is absorbed by the roots of the plants, contrary to a horizontal garden, where most of the water is lost through superficial flowing and vertical percolation. Indoor vertical gardens are in the same environment all over the world, with a temperature of around 20 degree Celsius. During the hot months, indoor vertical gardens can reduce the need of climatisation, thanks to refreshing the air through leaf and substrate evaporation,” he added.

Amazon launches new projects to improve water conservation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Yamare lake. SPECIALARRANGEMENT

Amazon recently announced its goal to “return more water to communities in India” than it uses in its direct operations by 2027. Through the recently launched projects in Bengaluru and Hyderabad, it aims to improve water conservation efforts at fulfilment centres, corporate offices, and data centres across the country.

Projects will be concentrated in areas of the highest water stress and their surrounding local communities.

The projects have been launched in Yamare Lake near Bengaluru and Sai Reddy Lake near Hyderabad to mitigate local water challenges and support community resilience.

Yamare and Sai Reddy Lakes, once vital water sources for their communities, have been gradually vanishing due to sediment buildup and vegetation overgrowth resulting from urbanisation and erosion. “The diminished water storage capacity of the lakes has also led to increased flooding risks and reduced groundwater recharge, further straining local water resources,” said a release on the projects.

Amazon will partner with SayTrees, a local environmental organisation, to undertake a comprehensive restoration of Yamare and Sai Reddy Lakes. The projects, set to commence in January, 2025, will involve desilting the lakes, restoring bund formations, and repairing inlet and outlet structures. These efforts are expected to increase the water volume capture potential of Yamare Lake and Sai Reddy Lake by more than 571 million litres combined.

“These lake restoration projects serve as a great model for how businesses can positively impact both environmental sustainability and community well-being,” said Deokant Payasi, Trustee with SayTrees.

Saab showcases Gripen E aircraft which will be on display during Aero India 2025

The Gripen E is one of the contenders for the 114 Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

Ahead of Aero India 2025, Swedish defence and aerospace company Saab recently showcased the full-scale replica of the Gripen E aircraft, which will be on public display at the airshow to be held between February 10 and 14.

Kent Ake Molin, head of Gripen for India Programme, said that the company is yet to decide on whether the aircraft would take part in the flying display during the airshow.

“We are working on the plans for Aero India with the organisers,” Mr. Molin said.

The Gripen E is one of the contenders for the 114 Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) which India wants to procure.

Technology transfer

The Indian Air Force issued a Request For Information (RFI) for 114 MRFA in April 2019 to global aircraft manufacturers, which requires the aircraft to be license-manufactured in India with significant technology transfer.

Swedish defence and aerospace company Saab is yet to decide on whether Gripen E would take part in the flying display during the air show. FILE PHOTO

“If you look at the advantages we have, it (Gripen E) is one of the most advanced and most cost-efficient platforms. We will also be delivering the world’s largest transfer of technology programme in the history of aerospace, and we will be able to deliver fast and ramp up to meet the requirement the IAF’s needs when it comes to fighter aircraft,” Mr. Molin told *The Hindu*.

When asked whether reports released by Swedish institutes like V-Dem Institute on India would have an impact on the company’s chances in the MRFA deal, Mr. Molin said, “I cannot comment on that specifically, but I know we have the full support from the Swedish government. This is not just selling; we are establishing industrial capabilities. We have the full support of the Swedish government to work with Indian industries to do the transfer of technologies required and capabilities to set up manufacturing, MRO and design capabilities here, so I do not see or hear any issues in that perception.”

Worst autocracies

According to the ‘Democracy Report 2024’ released by the Gothenburg-based V-Dem Institute, it had stated India is “one of the worst autocracies”.

Currently. the aircraft is on display as part of the Bangalore Security Dialogue.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 13, 1974

Shortage of Court Stamp Papers

Bangalore: Of late, a lot of inconvenience is being experienced by the public due to the acute shortage of court stamp papers and some categories of postal stationery, particularly five paise stamps and covers.

Enquiries with the Postal Department and the stamps department of the State Government indicate that this shortage is due to the fact that the supplies from the Government Press, Nasik, have been far below the demand. Also, the problem is an all-India one.

In regard to postal stationery, it is explained that consequent on the increase in the price of postcards, inland letters and covers in May this year, the demand for five paise stamps has gone up by leaps and bounds.

CM’s Advice to Land Reform Officials

Bangalore: The Chief Minister, Mr. Devaraj Urs, yesterday warned that severe action would be taken against officials entrusted with the implementation of land reforms for ensuring the rights of tenant farmers if they indulge in malpractices and work in contravention of Government policy. Legislation to be effective had to be implemented strictly by the enforcement machinery which should work with dedication to the cause, he said.

Mr. Urs was speaking at a meeting of tenant farmers and agricultural labourers at Kuppepadavu, home constituency of the Minister for Land Reforms, Mr. B. Subbayya Shetty.

Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

IN SHORT

First Mayoral polls were held in 1983

Long before the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) was established for the civic administration of the City, a Nagara Sabhe or Municipality had been set up in 1862 during the reign of the Wadiyars. Since 1977, Mysuru has a City Corporation and the first Mayoral polls were held in 1983. The 150 years of MCC were celebrated in 2012.

Heritage building houses MCC

The Mysuru City Corporation is housed in a century-old heritage building on Sayyaji Rao Road near the Mysuru Palace. Constructed between 1921 and 1924, during the reign of Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar, the MCC headquarters is also believed to be designed by Henry Irwin, the architect from England, who designed Mysuru Palace.

Population of Mysuru City

The population of Mysuru urban agglomeration has been growing. As per the 2011 census, the population was 9.83 lakh, up from 7.10 lakh recorded during the 2001 census. Though the census 2021 could not be held on account of the COVID-19 pandemic, the population of Mysuru city is presently estimated to be around 14 lakh.

The corporation's budget size

The budget of Mysuru City Corporation has crossed ₹ 1,000 crore. The MCC Budget for 2024-25, presented in February this year by the then Regional Commissioner of Mysore G.C. Prakash, who was also the Administrative Officer of the civic body, envisaged a total expenditure of ₹1,060.18 crore, as against a revenue of ₹1,067.06 crore.

Quantum of property tax collection

Mysuru City Corporation has a total of 2.27 lakh registered properties in its limits and the target of property tax collection is set at ₹225 crore for the year 2024-25. By the first week of December, the Mysuru City Corporation authorities had collected about ₹190 crore of property tax, achieving almost 85% of the target set by the civic body.

Is it time for Mysuru City Corporation to expand its geographic purview?

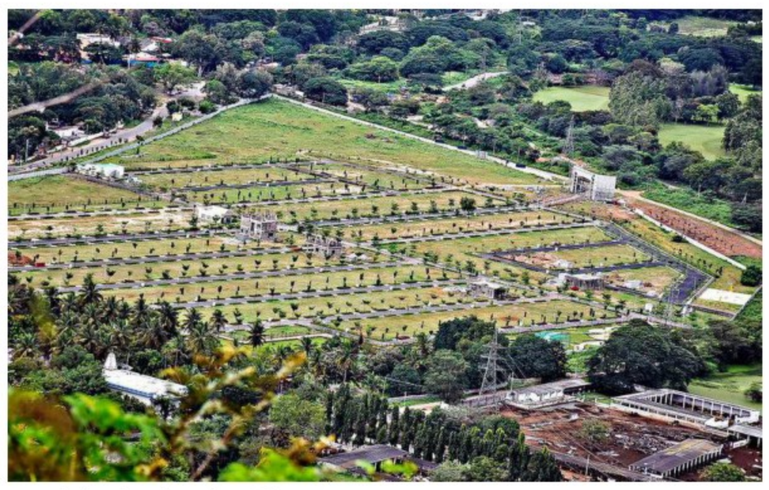
Despite demands to upgrade the civic body into a Greater Mysuru City Corporation or Bruhat Mysuru Mahanagara Palike, the efforts have not materialised so far

Laiqh A. Khan
BENGALURU

In the midst of a demand for a "clean-up" of Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), which is embroiled in a controversy over alleged irregularities in the allotment of residential sites, the long-pending demand for expanding the geographic purview of Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) is slowly and steadily gaining traction.

The development of residential layouts along the periphery of Mysuru City over the last couple of years and the rapid rise in the population of residents in the layouts developed outside the Outer Ring Road (ORR) demanding basic civic amenities has brought pressure on the administration.

A view of the heritage building housing the headquarters of Mysuru City Corporation on Sayyaji Rao Road in Mysuru. M.A. SRIRAM



A newly developed residential layout in Mysuru. M.A. SRIRAM

The cries of people residing outside the ORR, including the residents of layouts developed and approved by MUDA, are only growing louder with each passing day. M.A. SRIRAM

Restricted jurisdiction

Since long, MCC's jurisdiction has been restricted to around 128.4 sq km within the Outer Ring Road (ORR) of Mysuru. But, the cries of the population residing outside the ORR including the residents of layouts developed and approved by MUDA are only growing louder with each passing day.

Though demands had been made over the last ten years to expand the area of MCC to include the newly urbanised areas on the outskirts of the City and upgrade the civic body into a Greater Mysuru City Corporation (GMCC) or Bruhat Mysuru Mahanagara Palike (BMMP), the efforts had not materialised so far.

Broad hints dropped

But, Minister in charge of Mysuru district H.C. Mahadevappa dropped broad hints about a possible expansion of MCC's geographic purview recently after convening a meeting to elicit opinions from thinkers, writers, citizens and public-spirited activists on the development of Mysuru City.

The Minister said he was convening the meeting at the instance of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to devise a plan of action to improve the civic amenities provided to residents of Mysuru.

Co-incidentally, the meeting convened by Mahadevappa was held in the backdrop of a recent decision taken by MUDA to start the process of handing over about 900 layouts comprising an estimated total of around 38,000 residential sites to their jurisdictional local bodies.

After coming under public glare with parallel inquiries into the alleged irregularities in the allotment of sites, MUDA discontinued its practice of issuing khatas to sites developed and approved by it and collecting property tax from the property owners. According to MUDA Commissioner A.N. Raghunandan, urban development authorities like MUDA were empowered only to develop layouts or approve plans to develop layouts by private parties, but not to issue khatas and collect property tax from them.

Hence, the layouts will be transferred to the jurisdictional local bodies, which will not only have to issue khatas and collect property tax, but also provide them civic amenities.

The transfer of 900 layouts to about 23 local bodies including Hootagalli City Municipal Council, Town Panchayats like Ramanahalli, Srirampura, Bogadi, Kadakola and a number of gram panchayats is expected to be completed in the coming weeks.

Civic issues

Even though the MUDA had been collecting property tax from the residents of the new layouts it had developed and approved, it did not have the resources to ensure civic amenities like garbage clearance or clearing clogged underground drainages.

The civic problems of the residents outside the ORR were highlighted during a recent march by residents of about 30 layouts in East Mysuru to the Deputy Commissioner's office demanding basic amenities such as supply of the Cauvery water, proper underground drainage system, and repairs of damaged roads.

With 900 layouts around Mysuru City set to be transferred to the jurisdictional local bodies, a big question mark has arisen over the capability of the these bodies to ensure the civic amenities its residents were demanding.

Do the local bodies have sufficient manpower and financial resources to ensure the civic amenities to the residents is the question doing the rounds.

Need of the hour

Skeptical about the capability of the local bodies in their present form to meet the demands of the residents, former corporator of MCC K.V. Mallesh said expanding the MCC's jurisdiction by including the areas falling under these local bodies and upgrading the civic body into a Greater Mysuru City Corporation (GMCC) had become the need of the hour.

Not only does the Chief Minister of the State hail from Mysuru, even the local bodies do not have elected members, which will make the entire process of upgrading MCC by enlarging its geographic jurisdiction a smooth affair, he opined.

As the political will of the Government of the day is also very much essential for such proposals, which carry a financial burden, to fructify, Mallesh hoped the long-pending demand for expansion of MCC materialises during Siddaramaiah's tenure. For, we do not know when a person from Mysuru will occupy the top post again, he remarked.

Meanwhile, Congress leader M. Lakshmana, who earlier spearheaded the Association of Concerned and Informed Citizens of Mysuru (ACICM), too felt that the expansion of MCC's jurisdiction had become imperative with the growing demand for basic amenities from the residents of the new layouts.

"When they are paying taxes, they will naturally demand facilities from the Government", he said.

CM shows interest

With Siddaramaiah himself reportedly showing interest in an exercise of eliciting opinion from the people to improve the quality of civic amenities for the residents of Mysuru, Lakshmana said there is a possibility of MCC's jurisdiction expanding from the present 128.4 square km to about 250 square km. But, he was not sure if the expanded MCC would be christened Greater Mysuru City Corporation (GMCC) or Bruhat Mysuru Mahanagara Palike (BMMP). For, such a nomenclature comes with certain parameters.

Also, if the MCC's jurisdiction is expanded, the number of wards of MCC could be increased from the present 64 to almost 100, he said.

The expanded MCC will also come with financial expenditure and the State Government will have to infuse about 500 crore to start with for providing infrastructure in the new areas and later provide an additional grant of ₹ 100 crore every year for their maintenance for about 4 to 5 years, he said.

JD(S) leader and MLA representing Chamundeshwari assembly constituency in Mysuru G.T. Deve Gowda is among the strongest votaries of a Greater Mysuru City Corporation.

Strong votary

For, most of the areas on the outskirts of Mysuru witnessing rapid growth fall in Chamundeshwari assembly constituency. After submitting a memorandum to Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru to upgrade the MCC into Bruhat Mysuru Mahanagara Palike (BMMP) a few weeks ago, Gowda is assuring the residents of his constituency of about his efforts to convince the Chief Minister in this regard.

Meanwhile, Mahadevappa has pointed out that the erstwhile Congress Government headed by Siddaramaiah had spent about ₹2,500 to ₹3,000 crore during its tenure between 2013 and 2018 to provide drinking water, roads, schools, colleges and hospitals. Now, the Government will soon come out with an action plan to provide more such facilities and services to Mysuru City during the remaining three and a half years of its present tenure, he assured. However, it remains to be seen if the area under MCC's jurisdiction is expanded to include the newly developed areas on Mysuru City's outskirts.

No elected body

Incidentally, the term of the elected members of the MCC ended more than a year ago in November 2023.

The last elections to the MCC to elect representatives to its 65 wards was held in 2018.

We won't touch temple and farmers' properties, declares Zameer

Minister clarifies that his intention of conducting waqf adalats was to clear encroachments over waqf property

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Minister for Waqf, B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan, on Thursday clarified that his intention of conducting waqf adalats was to clear the encroachment over 17,000 acres of waqf property and not claiming ownership of either temples or farmers.

Zameer Ahmed Khan FILE PHOTO

Replying to the prolonged debate on the waqf issue in the Karnataka Legislative Council on Thursday, the Minister declared: "We will not touch temple property, we will not touch farmers' properties."

In his reply, the Minister said that the highest number of notices were issued during the BJP tenure and it was a standard procedure followed as ultimately revenue officials had to take the decision and pass orders.

He also clarified that wherever he conducted waqf adalats, he had invited the local MLAs and also during the meeting wih the Deputy Commisioners.

"In Vijayapura, I had invited Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal also, but he did not turn up. However, after three days a protest was staged claiming that in Govinhalli 1,200 acres land has been identified as waqf property while the Deputy Commissioner clarified that it was only 11 acres," he said.

The Minister appealed to the Opposition leaders not to raise a hue and cry over the issue as his intention was to only clear encroachments over waqf properties and not to stake claim over any property of temple and farmers. He also requested them to bring it to his notice any lapses pertaining to the waqf issue and he would take steps to rectify it.

Earlier, during the prolonged debate under Rule 68, B.K. Hariprasad, Umashree, Naseer Ahmed, Pratapsimha Nayak, P.H. Pujar and Leader of the Opposition Chalavadi Narayanaswamy spoke on the issue.

Heavy rain disrupts life in Tirupati

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUPATI

Incessant rains for over 15 hours lashed Tirupati city disrupting normal life on Thursday. The reported delay in the announcement of holiday by the district administration for government and private schools, anganwadi centres and other major institutions caused inconvenience to the students, teachers as well as parents.

Many roads in the city remained flooded, forcing pedestrians to walk in knee-deep water till afternoon.

'One nation, one election' a conspiracy to curb rights of States: Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on Thursday that the Union Cabinet's approval of the 'One nation, one election' Bill was "not only an assault on parliamentary democracy and the federal structure of India but also a sinister conspiracy to curb the rights of States".

Siddaramaiah

Kerala's stand

Taking to social media, Mr. Siddaramaiah noted that the Kerala government had already passed a resolution opposing the proposal and communicated its dissent to the Centre. "If needed, our government will also consult the Congress high command and adopt a similar resolution to send a strong message against this anti-democratic move."

The Chief Minister said, "At a time when the current electoral system is in dire need of reforms, such a Bill will only weaken the foundations of democracy further. Before approving such a critical Bill, the Modi government should have consulted Opposition parties and State governments.

However, true to its authoritarian tendencies, the BJP-led Central government is trying to impose this undemocratic proposal on the country."

He said that the proposal provides no solutions to the crises that arise when the ruling party loses its majority in the Lok Sabha or State Assemblies. "In such situations, the only democratic remedy is to conduct fresh elections. Allowing a minority government to continue in power despite losing confidence would be nothing short of treachery against democracy," he said.

'Flawed system'

To implement such a flawed electoral system, amendments to the Representation of the People Act and at least five key provisions of the Constitution would be required. Moreover, the current Election Commission lacks the capacity and resources to conduct simultaneous elections across the entire country. The Chief Minister said the move was "not about electoral reforms but about consolidating power and undermining the democratic spirit of our nation".

4 schoolgirls killed as lorry crashes into them in Kerala

The Hindu Bureau
PALAKKAD

Four Class VIII students of Government Higher Secondary School, Karimba, were killed by a cement-laden lorry that overturned at Panayampadam curve, near Kalladikode in Kerala, on the National Highway 966 on Thursday evening.

The tragedy struck around 4.15 p.m. when the girls were heading home after attending mid-term examination.

The lorry lost control at the curve, careened off the road, and flipped over after hitting a tree and destroying a compound wall. The five-member student group was caught under the overturned lorry.

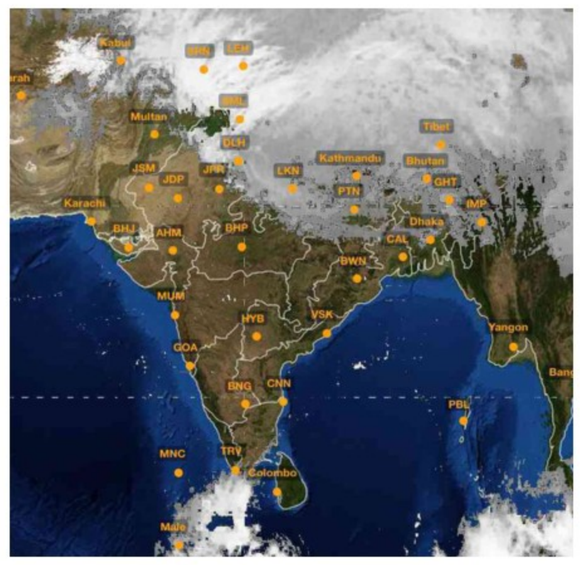
One of them escaped with injuries while four others were fatally crushed under the lorry.

Though they were rushed to nearby hospitals, they were declared dead on arrival. The victims were identified as Irfana, Midha, Ridha, and Aysha. The accident site witnessed heart-wrenching scenes as the crushed bodies of the victims were pulled out from under the lorry in front of parents.

Furious at the tragedy, local people laid a siege to the highway and protested against the unscientific road construction.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal Kerala, Mahe, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Cold wave conditions likely in isolated pockets of Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Haryana, Delhi, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	21.2	13.8	Kozhikode	—	30.8	26.4
Ahmedabad	—	27.3	13.0	Kurnool	—	29.5	20.3
Aizawl	—	23.0	11.6	Lucknow	—	24.1	6.3
Allahabad	—	26.3	7.0	Madurai	1.6	27.2	22.9
Bengaluru	—	22.0	19.9	Mangaluru	—	32.9	24.6
Bhopal	—	23.4	6.8	Mumbai	—	32.8	18.4
Bhubaneswar	—	27.8	15.0	Mysuru	—	27.0	20.0
Chandigarh	—	23.1	4.7	New Delhi	—	22.2	4.5
Chennai	74	26.5	24.2	Patna	—	22.8	11.4
Coimbatore	0.7	25.0	23.2	Port Blair	—	31.3	26.1
Dehradun	—	23.8	5.0	Puducherry	2.5	27.2	23.7
Gangtok	—	14.0	6.0	Pune	—	32.4	17.4
Goa	—	34.0	25.0	Raipur	—	28.2	12.5
Guwahati	—	25.3	13.0	Ranchi	—	24.8	8.6
Hubballi	—	30.0	19.0	Shillong	—	16.6	5.7
Hyderabad	—	29.8	14.1	Shimla	—	15.6	5.1
Imphal	—	22.3	9.5	Srinagar	0.2	7.0	-0.5
Jaipur	—	23.0	6.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	28.7	25.6
Kochi	—	27.6	22.8	Tiruchi	7.6	25.5	23.0
Kohima	—	16.6	6.4	Vijayawada	—	30.2	22.8
Kolkata	—	25.1	13.0	Visakhapatnam	—	28.1	23.1

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.19	..43	35	... 178	...107	
Bengaluru	...6	..—	38	... 210	...103	
Chennai	...8	..23	30	 62	51	
Delhi	...8	306	43	... 328	...302	
Hyderabad	...6	110	47	... 142	...141	
Kolkata	.12	..47	20	... 212	...158	
Lucknow	...7	..36	59	... 280	...235	
Mumbai	.13	..91	31	... 148	...142	
Pune	..—	134	92	... 223	...158	
Visakhapatnam	.10	..42	37	... 232	...137	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Hanumangarh, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 309 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 24

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

INBRIEF

Court directive flouted during Dileep's Sabarimala visit: HC

Observing that the Kerala High Court directive to ensure uninterrupted movement of pilgrims in front of the Sopanam of the Sabarimala Sannidhanam was openly flouted during the visit of actor Dileep on December 5, a Division Bench on Thursday directed the Travancore Devaswom Board and the Chief Police Coordinator to take necessary steps to ensure that no pilgrims are permitted to stand in front of the Sopanam for long as in the case of the actor blocking darshan of other pilgrims. It noted that till the actor left the Sopanam, no pilgrim standing in the first row was permitted to move forward.

Former A.P. Minister quits YSRCP; cites personal reasons

In a jolt to the YSR Congress Party, former Minister Muttamsetti Srinivasa Rao resigned from the party on Thursday. Mr. Srinivas had distanced himself from the party after losing the election in June. He had served as Minister for Tourism, Culture and Youth Advancement in the Jagan Mohan Reddy Cabinet. He was dropped from the Cabinet in the reshuffle effected in April 2022. In a letter addressed to party president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, the former MLA cited personal reasons for his resignation.

Survivor in actor rape case seeks open court hearing

The survivor in the actor rape case in Kerala has moved the court seeking to hold the hearing in the case in open court as she felt that her identity and the fact that she was sexually assaulted was "well-known to every member of this society". The petition came up on the day the trial court began the final hearing in the case. The trial is being held in camera, as mandated by the law. The prosecution case is that the actor was abducted and raped by the accused in a moving car on February 17, 2017.

Back to roots

People watching the traditional process of extracting oil at the Visakha Organic Mela in Visakhapatnam on Thursday. The expo, open till December 15, is being organised by Go-adharitha Prakruthi Vyavasayadarula Sangham and Rythu Sadhikara Samstha of A.P. K.R DEEPAK

Newborn dies during home birth; police launch investigation

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUCHI

Avudaiyarkoil police have launched a probe into the death of a newborn during home birth in Pudukottai district on Wednesday, and the subsequent covert burial of the body.

Acting on a complaint from a government doctor, a case was filed under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita.

The body was exhumed on Thursday in the presence of revenue and police officials, and sent to the Pudukottai Government Medical College Hospital for an autopsy, police sources said.

The incident took place at Periya Sengeerai village in Avudaiyarkoil taluk.

District health authorities said it was the second delivery for R. Abirami, 27, whose first child died of brain tumour three months after it was born. Ms. Abirami went into labour around 4 a.m. on Wednesday.

Her husband Rajasekar opted for home birth, allegedly after watching YouTube videos.

Ever since the death of their first child, Mr. Rajasekar and Ms. Abirami were apparently not in favour of allopathic treatment. Ms. Abirami neither registered her second pregnancy with the Village Health Nurse, nor did she undergo any medical examination, sources said.

New sports utility vehicle catches fire during high-speed stunt in Kerala's Kasaragod

The Hindu Bureau
KASARAGOD

A brand new sports utility vehicle caught fire and was completely destroyed during a high-speed stunt session at a ground in Kumbala Pachambala in Kasaragod on Thursday.

The incident occurred when a group of youth were practising stunts for creating social media reels. None was injured.

A brand new sports utility vehicle that caught fire at a ground in Kasaragod on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The vehicle was being driven recklessly around the playground when smoke began to rise from the bonnet. Within moments, the vehicle caught fire. Firefighters rushed to the scene and extinguished the blaze, but the vehicle was completely destroyed.

According to Kumbala Station House Offier K.P. Vinod Kumar, no complaint has been filed yet, but investigation is under way.

Immigrant worker from Kuwait confesses to killing daughter's 'molester' in A.P.

K. Umashanker
RAJAMPETA

The police came to know about the crime after the accused released a video message

An immigrant worker from Kuwait visited Annamayya district in Andhra Pradesh on Saturday allegedly to kill a 59-year-old physically-challenged man accused of molesting his daughter.

The immigrant worker was from Kothamangampeta village. The police got to know about the crime after he released a video message on a social media platform, claiming responsibility for the murder.

In the video, he said he had committed the crime as the police did not take action on the complaint filed by the girl's mother.

Investigation revealed that the accused, along with his wife, had left for Kuwait, leaving behind their 12-year-old daughter under the care of his wife's younger sister and her husband, whose father allegedly molested the girl.

After the girl narrated the incident to her mother in Kuwait, the latter rushed to the village and questioned her sister about the same and filed a complaint with the police. The police later issued a warning to the molester. Irked over the development, the girl's father visited the village and killed the accused with an iron rod, and left for Kuwait.

The police, who rushed to the scene of crime, found no clues, and registered it as a "suspicious death."

On Wednesday night, the accused released a video message from Kuwait claiming responsibility for the murder.

A legend, made

Gukesh is first among a cohort of young Indian chess geniuses to reach pinnacle

Eighteen-year-old D. Gukesh has made history by becoming the 18th world chess champion, which will make him the youngest to do so and emulating the doyen of Indian chess, Viswanathan Anand, the only other Indian to achieve the honour. Gukesh managed his feat after a blunder made by the reigning world champion, Ding Liren of China, on the 55th move, Rf2, in the 14th and final classical game of the match. The game was headed towards a draw, but with Gukesh pressing for any advantage in a rook-bishop-pawn endgame and having an extra pawn, it took just one misstep for Ding to lose his crown. Ding was in poor form prior to the match but the Chinese GM proved his mettle by winning the first game, setting up a strong contest. Gukesh won Game 4 to tie the match and after a series of draws, Gukesh played an enterprising Game 11 to take the lead; Ding fought back brilliantly to tie the match again with a strong win in Game 12. The strategies of both players were evident. Gukesh played strong openings and exhibited tenacity in trying to gain advantages in near equal positions as the games progressed. Ding's plan seemed to be to secure a stalemate in the classical games and to drag the match into the shorter rapid and if need be, blitz formats, and to use his strength in terms of experience. Sticking to his strategy of pushing through equal positions, Gukesh had the last laugh.

The Chennai-born Grandmaster's mental toughness and wisdom beyond his age have been his calling card. His steady rise was due to his dedication and his accelerated path to glory was helped by the work done by his seconds – Gukesh revealed their names only after the match – besides the mentoring by GM Anand's WestBridge Anand Chess Academy. His versatile game, built on an innate ability to calculate moves deeply on the board, kept him in good stead against his more experienced opponent. The surge of young Indian talent to the top echelons of world chess in recent years – compatriot GMs Arjun Erigaisi and R. Praggnanandhaa are in the top 15 along with Gukesh – raised expectations of another Indian world champion in chess. The youngsters have pushed each other to do their best. Gukesh won a strong Candidates tournament to emerge as Ding's challenger and his prowess was evident following his individual gold winning performances in the Chennai and Budapest Chess Olympiads, the latter being India's first gold in the team event. His next frontier would be to reach the heights scaled by the world's strongest chess player, Magnus Carlsen. Gukesh becoming the world champion would also motivate his Indian compatriots and will add a fillip to the growth of modern chess as a sport and vocation in the country of its birth.

Price worries

The inflation trajectory suggests a rate cut may remain elusive for some time

From a 14-month high of 6.2% in October, consumer price inflation moderated to 5.5% last month. Much of this minor respite stems from a decline in the inflation rate of some food items. For vegetables, it cooled from a 57-month peak of 42.2% to just under 30%, while foodgrain prices rose at the slowest pace in 28 months, and pulses cooled to just over 5% after a prolonged spell of double-digit spikes. Despite these pockets of relief, overall food inflation remained sharp at over 9% for the third straight month, with edible oil prices firming up 13.3%, the highest in 30 months as a global price spike has coincided with an import duty hike by the Centre. It is no surprise coconut oil prices are up over 42%, even as items such as garlic (85.1%), potato (66.7%), cauliflower and cabbage (well over 40%), are pinching consumers. While recent conversations about the economy have focused on decelerating urban demand, the price rise trend is hitting rural consumers harder with close to 6% inflation in November as well as higher food prices.

Despite assertions by the government that food prices are volatile and should be ignored for monetary policy purposes when growth is stumbling, higher spends on meals are spilling into other items' prices. Manufacturing and services firms have reported intensifying cost pressures last month compelling them to hike prices at the highest pace in 12 years. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which had originally estimated October-December inflation to average 4.8%, raised it to 5.7% at its monetary policy review last week. This implies inflation this month – which will be the last data before the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meets next – could still be high at 5.4%. This would be well above the central bank's median target of 4% – the MPC now expects average inflation to attain that level only by the second quarter of 2025-26. The government, whose clamour for an interest rate cut was ignored by the MPC last week, may be hoping its new appointee at the helm of Mint Street, another Finance Ministry insider, may oblige with more urgent and bigger rate cuts to support growth. While some assert a rate cut in February's MPC meet is virtually cemented, going by current trends, the data may not back such a move as growth might recover a bit and inflation may cool a tad more, thus diminishing any urgency. That the Centre would have presented its Budget 2025-26 by the next MPC meet, may help the rate cut case going forward, if it demonstrates fiscal prudence and steps to ease citizens' living costs.

Pakistan at the UNSC, the points of its compass

T.S. Tirumurti

was Permanent Representative/ Ambassador of India to the United Nations, New York (2021-22) and President of United Nations Security Council for August 2021

On January 1, 2025, Pakistan enters the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) as an elected non-permanent member for a two-year term – its eighth.

Pakistan's entry is significant in that, effectively, half of the 10 elected members of UNSC will be from the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Those elected for 2025-26 were Denmark, Greece, Pakistan, Panama and Somalia. They will replace Ecuador, Japan, Malta, Mozambique and Switzerland as their terms end on December 31. The new members will join Algeria, Guyana, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone and Slovenia, who are existing non-permanent members.

Afghanistan will be a natural focus with Pakistan sure to use its Council stint to repair its frosty relations with the Taliban. In this, it has Russia and China to readily assist it in the diplomatic rehabilitation of the Taliban. With the OIC countries, one hopes that the Council gets all the support it needs for a ceasefire in Gaza to salvage from the rubble whatever is left of the Palestinian cause and stabilise the region. Peacekeeping is another of Pakistan's stated priorities given its role as a major troop contributing country for UN peacekeeping. However, Pakistan's default mode will be to focus on India.

What India should expect

India-Pakistan relations are still strained. Even if one assumes that some backchannels are busy working the lines, it is a given that enhanced bilateral cooperation does not necessarily result in enhanced multilateral cooperation, especially in the UN. This is true not just of Pakistan but also of countries India considers as "close friends", even in the Global South. For example, some OIC countries with which India has very close bilateral relations, line up behind Pakistani drafts in the UN which have anti-India language. They even argue – ingeniously – that the offensive language is not aimed at India. Fortunately, there is help usually from unexpected friends in such groups, enabling India to tide over the issues successfully.

To state the obvious, India should be prepared for Pakistan's anti-India initiatives in the UNSC. There was a brief period in 2012 when there was some synergy between the Missions of both countries in the UN when both nations were in the Council, but that was an aberration. Pakistan is back to its multilateral default mode of being anti-India. And in this, it now has a more assertive "iron brother" in China offering it an "all-weather friendship". Pakistan's first stated priority is to "combat terrorism", which it hopes will absolve it of the tag of "terrorist state". It will also try – as it always does – to slip that tag onto India. The list of Pakistan-based and Pakistani terrorist organisations associated with the ISIL (Daesh) and al-Qaeda under UNSC Resolution 1267 mandated sanctions, including the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and the Jaish-e-Mohammed, is long and instructive. In retaliation, Pakistan has presented several "dossiers" to the UN Secretary General, that have fancy claims of Indian terrorist attacks on Pakistan – anything to keep the anti-India pot boiling.

India should be prepared for Pakistan's anti-India initiatives in the United Nations Security Council

After its stint in the UNSC in 2021-22, India's proposal (with the United States as co-signatory) to list Pakistani terrorist Abdul Rehman Makki, deputy leader of the LeT, under the 1267 sanctions regime was approved by the UNSC – including of course by China – making this the first listing (with India as a proposer) for terrorist acts in Jammu and Kashmir. It was a blow to Pakistan, which it must be waiting to avenge.

However, even proposals under 1267 sanctions are given a religious colour by Pakistan. It made desperate attempts, with trumped up charges, to list four Indian Hindus as terrorists, with the intention of getting at least one Hindu listed. The Council rejected every one of Pakistan's requests – not once but twice – thanks to the U.S. and other western countries. Member-states have seen through Pakistan's game.

On Kashmir

Its next, and most obvious, stated priority will be Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). Pakistan pushed for discussions on J&K in the Council through its "friends" when India abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution. Two closed "consultations" were held in the UNSC, with China acting as the cat's-paw. But nothing happened. At least four of the five permanent members (P-5) have little appetite for this issue. When a Pakistani journalist in New York asked this writer – when India entered the UNSC in January 2021 – about the "unfinished" business of Article 370, the reply he got was this: that the only "unfinished" business was the return of Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir (PoK) to India.

With elections having been conducted and a popular- government in place in J&K, Pakistan would find it hard to make an issue. China, which, incidentally, occupies a part of PoK after Pakistan ceded it to them, will only be too happy to keep the pot boiling. The Pakistani Ambassador to the UN made a case in the media on how the recent decision by the International Court of Justice decision on Palestine applies to J&K. One cannot stop Pakistan from trying to do what it wants as its presence in the UNSC will give it the lever to call for discussions on J&K. India is aware that the P-5 usually does not like to prevent discussions, but decides whether it should be open or closed and whether there should be an outcome.

The use of Islamophobia

Pakistan has used Islamophobia as a weapon to dilute the fight against terrorism and, going by its recent attempts, to target India. When the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GTS) was discussed in 2021, and again in 2023, Pakistan, supported by the OIC, sought to introduce Islamophobia as a 'justification' for terrorism. India stood alone and had the reference removed. But when India left the Council at the end of 2022, the United Arab Emirates and others inserted, *inter alia*, Islamophobia into the UNSC Presidential statement for the first time in February 2023. In March 2024, the U.S., China and Russia voted in the UN General Assembly in support of an OIC resolution to appoint a UN Special Envoy for Combatting Islamophobia. With the right wing on the rise in the West, one has not heard the last on this subject in the Council with the OIC countries.

Early this year, Pakistan raised the issue of the bilateral India-Pakistan Indus Waters Treaty in the Council, which is a purely bilateral agreement with its mechanism to resolve disputes. This is a misuse of the UNSC with the only benefit of catering to a domestic audience.

During its stint between 2021-22, India played a robust and positive role in strengthening international peace and security. While many UNSC members misuse "Arria formula" meetings (a dispensation where any UNSC member can circumvent the Council and hold informal meetings on any issue), India avoided doing this and stuck to its priorities in the Council. Pakistan will have no such compunctions.

It is unfortunate that Pakistan ignores the many multilateral synergies between India and Pakistan to work together on UN issues. Both countries have similar interests: in UN peacekeeping, as they are large troop-contributing countries; in combating climate change, as they face severe climate change-induced floods and natural disasters; in achieving Sustainable Development Goals 2030; in focusing on the debt burden of the Global South; or in reforming multilateral financial institutions. Sometimes even functional contacts with Indian diplomats are frowned upon by its Mission.

Pakistan's internal political churning, economic collapse and misplaced priorities have prevented it from strengthening multilateralism and the UN in a world wrecked by conflicts. While its term will be high on rhetoric against India, it is difficult to see how UN member-states will be persuaded to play its game.

The missing spotlight on urban local government polls

Santosh Nargund

Head, Participatory Governance at the Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy

Maansi Verma

Manager, Policy Engagement at the Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy

Urban local governments (ULGs) function as units of decentralised local self-governance, and are responsible for delivering civic services at the first mile, ensuring quality of life for citizens. The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act (CAA) was introduced in 1992 to codify this role of ULGs. Over 30 years later, the objectives of this landmark amendment are yet to be realised. The ongoing discourse on simultaneous elections, popularly known as One Nation One Election (ONOE), is a unique opportunity to spotlight a basic requirement of local democracy, i.e., elections to ULGs – a consideration that has generally been absent in deliberations on the ONOE.

'State subjects' as reasoning

The 79th report of the Parliament Standing Committee on Law and Justice on the 'Feasibility of Simultaneous Elections,' submitted in 2015, while advocating simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, was silent on elections to ULGs. A discussion paper (2017) by the NITI Aayog, on 'Analysis of Simultaneous Elections', kept ULGs out of its purview, arguing that the third-tier institutions are State subjects and that the sheer number of such institutions across the country makes it "impractical, and possibly impossible, to synchronise elections". Similar reasoning is put forward in the 2018 draft report of the Law Commission of India on simultaneous elections. But in a refreshing departure, the High Level Committee (HLC) constituted by the Government of India to provide a road map for implementation of simultaneous elections, deliberated on local body elections and recommended synchronising them within 100 days of simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

India has over 4,800 ULGs that oversee nearly 40% of the population, a figure which is estimated to cross 50% by 2050. Cities are the backbone of the country's economy, contributing over 60% to India's GDP. Well-governed cities accelerate economic growth, and promote social and cultural well being. Thus, ensuring regular elections to install democratically-elected governments in our cities every five years ought to be a matter of mainstream political discourse and policy formulation. The HLC report, which was accepted by the Union government in September 2024, touched upon the procedure of elections to local governments and is a good start in this direction. However, deeper analysis is necessary to understand and address the current state of affairs of elections to ULGs.

The ongoing discourse on simultaneous elections, or ONOE, is the right opportunity for change

Uncertainty and delays in elections

It may come as a surprise to many that despite the constitutional mandate of holding elections to municipalities every five years, elections are routinely delayed across thousands of ULGs – sometimes by several years. According to the Compendium of Performance Audits on the Implementation of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 (published by the Comptroller and Auditor General, or CAG of India in November 2024), elections were delayed in over 60% of ULGs across India. Such ULGs are directly governed by State governments, violating the principle of decentralisation as envisaged in the Constitution. This also adversely impacts accountability as citizens lack representation and have limited avenues for airing their grievances and development needs. Elections that are held on time are the *sine qua non* for democracy – not just for Parliament and the State legislatures but also for every municipality in the country.

Holding elections to ULGs is not enough. After the results are announced, the elected councils have to be operationalised with State governments calling for their first meeting to enable elections to the offices of mayors/chairpersons and standing committees. A study undertaken by Janaagraha found that there was a delay by 11 months on average in the formation of councils after the declaration of election results of the municipal corporations in Karnataka. In effect, ULGs continue to function under the administrative control of State governments. This defeats the electoral mandate given by the people, making elected city councillors powerless to attend to the development needs of their electorate.

Disempowered State Election Commissions

Another important issue is the disempowerment of the State Election Commissions (SECs), which are constitutional bodies responsible for supervising and conducting ULG elections. The CAG report notes that only four out of the 15 States assessed have empowered their SECs to carry out ward delimitation. The report further notes that elections to ULGs were delayed due to a delay in ward delimitation by State governments or because of court cases regarding reservations. Given the high political ramifications of ward delimitation and reservation exercises, it is necessary that these functions are carried out by independent authorities such as the SECs.

A holistic analysis of the challenges in conducting elections to ULGs promptly is important in the ongoing national discourse on the synchronisation of elections. There is an urgent need to build on the beginning made by the HLC to effect the reforms necessary in ULG elections.

The Government of India has proposed setting up an implementation group to prepare a plan of action that would execute the HLC's recommendations. The government has also expressed its intent to have consultations across the country on this topic. It is hoped and expected that the agenda for reforms to ensure regular and scheduled elections to ULGs will feature in these dialogues and that the Union and State governments will come together to make local democracy in our cities operational and vibrant.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Parliament and business

The proposal to move a no-trust move against the Chairperson of the Upper House and the Vice-President of India has some merit. The Chairperson has been seen to be completely partial to the ruling party on several occasions — as can be visually seen from the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha on a daily basis by any discerning viewer. People can judge what they see.

V. Padmanabhan,
Bengaluru

If the Opposition has decided to act against the Rajya Sabha Chairman, it could be only because the parties concerned have reached the end of their tether. For any independent observer, it was evident that the Chairperson has been adopting a 'more loyal than the king attitude' when it came to discussions on issues which were inconvenient or not to the liking of the ruling dispensation.

C.G. Kuriakose,
Kothamangalam, Kerala

The development is a new sign of degrading political dialogue and the lack of minimal cooperation in Indian politics. The invocation by some politicians of conspiracy theories is also concerning. Ironically, the use of the popular term, 'deep state', is being seen in the prevalent rhetoric. It is important for all involved to abandon hearsay and focus on pressing issues that concern Indians. Given the mountain of work to be tackled, the government and the Opposition must work hand in hand to justify the faith the electorate has placed in them.

Anany Mishra,
Bhilai, Chhattisgarh

It is unfortunate that the ruling BJP and the Opposition parties in our country do not view each other as ideological opponents but as real-time enemies. This has led to the situation where they do not engage in fair and useful debate in both the Houses of Parliament. The unfortunate developments are a blot on the functioning of the world's largest democracy.

Gopalaswamy J.,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Should the executive have the power to pardon?

Sanjay Hegde

Senior advocate based in Delhi

Alok Prasanna Kumar

Co-founder and Karnataka lead of Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy

PARLEY

United States President Joe Biden's recent decision to pardon his son Hunter Biden for any federal crimes he committed or may have committed between January 1, 2014, and December 1, 2024 has brought renewed focus on the expansive clemency powers granted to the President by the U.S. Constitution. The President's volte-face has provoked strong condemnation from both Republicans and Democrats. Should the executive possess clemency powers? Sanjay Hedge and Alok Prasanna Kumar discuss the question in a conversation moderated by Aaratrika Bhaumik. Edited excerpts:

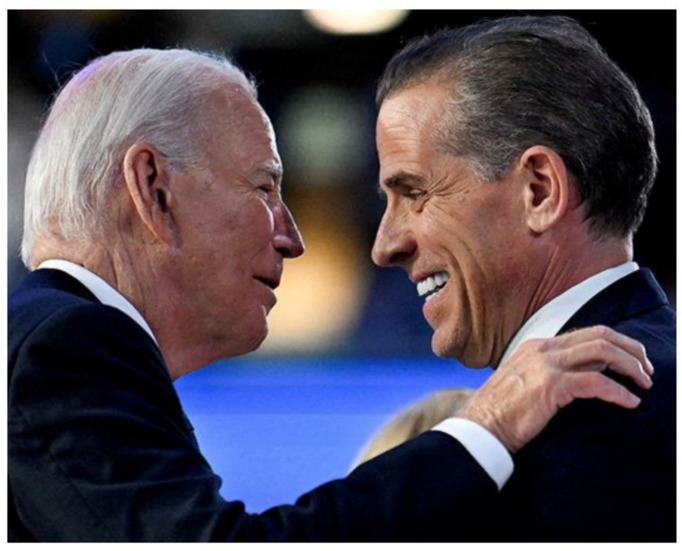
Should the executive power of clemency rest with the legislature to avert misuse?

Sanjay Hegde: Vesting clemency powers in the legislature could prove equally susceptible to corruption and majority rule. Historically, the power to pardon originated from the British monarchy as an attribute of sovereignty, enabling the king to absolve any wrongdoing. Even today, the Constitution acknowledges scenarios where it is imperative to trust a high officeholder to judiciously exercise such discretionary authority when required.

Alok Prasanna Kumar: I agree. During the debates on the U.S. Constitution, Alexander Hamilton, the first Secretary of the Treasury, acknowledged that the exercise of clemency is inherently political and cannot be reduced to a purely legal process. He argued that this power should be vested in a single constitutional officeholder, instead of being subjected to the whims of collective discretion. He also pointed out that the power of pardon introduced an element of mercy, which he believed was necessary to temper the rigours of the criminal justice system. He saw it as a means for true justice to prevail in cases where the law could not account for circumstances or moral factors beyond the scope of judicial proceedings.

Should an independent clemency commission replace the existing system to ensure more objective and informed decision-making?

APK: Even if an independent clemency commission were established, its advice would not be binding on the President. While the President may seek a range of information to make a reasoned decision, as former President Harry Truman famously stated, "the buck stops here." Transparency is important, and in today's age of social media and a free press, the public will likely be aware of the reasons behind a presidential decision. However, that does not guarantee that every decision will be immediately acceptable to the public at large.



U.S. President Joe Biden with his son Hunter Biden at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, Illinois. REUTERS

SH: The public doesn't always agree with clemency decisions. One of the most notable examples is when U.S. President Gerald Ford pardoned his predecessor, Richard Nixon. He believed that the country had endured enough during the Watergate scandal and that the matter should be put to rest, as Nixon had already been punished by losing the presidency. He felt that a criminal trial would only prolong the nation's agony. At the time, special prosecutor Leon Jaworski chose not to challenge this decision.

In contrast, the clemency system in India has not been widely abused. Former Presidents such as A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and Pratibha Patil have only sat on files, exercising a pocket veto whenever they disagreed with government advice. The pardon jurisdiction for non-capital offences has rarely been exercised.

Would expanding the scope of judicial review over executive clemency decisions prevent potential overreach or misuse?

SH: I don't think the U.S. will ever adopt such a system. President-elect Donald Trump has expressed an inclination to pardon rioters involved in the January 6, 2021, Capitol attack. There are also speculations that President Biden may pre-emptively pardon several individuals before he demits office. I doubt the judiciary will step in to second-guess the President's authority in these matters.

In India, both the President and the Governor act on the aid and advice of the Cabinet. In fact, the Supreme Court in *Epuru Sudhakar v. State of Andhra Pradesh* (2006) affirmed that a Governor's grant of pardon could be challenged in court if it was found to be mala fide or based on irrelevant considerations.

> When it comes to clemency, defining what constitutes abuse or misuse is challenging, especially when the power itself is not clearly defined. For example, in 20 years, one might argue that granting clemency to Hunter Biden was one of Joe Biden's best decisions. We lack the foresight to deem such decisions egregiously wrong at this moment.
>
> ALOK KUMAR PRASANNA

APK: I don't believe that clemency decisions can be judicially reviewable. The concept of mercy is inherently subjective, and there cannot be one inalienable understanding of it. We also have to understand that constitutional functionaries inevitably bring their personal biases to bear on these decisions. While courts, as seen in India, may intervene in instances of procedural violations, there are no definitive legal benchmarks to determine what constitutes an appropriate exercise of clemency. Ultimately, it is unreasonable to assert that mercy should have one fixed meaning under the Constitution, or that clemency should be confined to a specific category of political cases.

Should U.S. Congress play a greater role in the process? For instance, the Protecting Our Democracy Act, reintroduced in Congress last year, mandates the White House disclose all materials the President relies on when exercising clemency powers.

SH: Even if Congress were to pass a law, it could only serve to guide the process. Clemency powers are unique – they speak to the inherent humanity shared by both the one who grants mercy and the one who receives it. There may be cases where a penalty has been imposed and the legal process is complete, yet new evidence emerges that calls for reconsideration. It is impossible to legislate strict standards, especially since they would never be binding. We have seen this discretionary authority play out when President Andrew Johnson pardoned Dr. Samuel Alexander Mudd, the physician who treated John Wilkes Booth's broken leg after he assassinated Abraham Lincoln.

APK: No law can entirely prevent its misuse. If someone in a position of authority is determined to break the law, there is little the law itself can do to stop them. While mechanisms can be put in place to ensure that such actions have stringent repercussions, total prevention is impossible to attain. For instance, we see police officers routinely abuse their powers of arrest.

When it comes to clemency, defining what constitutes abuse or misuse is challenging, especially when the power itself is not clearly defined. For example, in 20 years, one might argue that granting clemency to Hunter Biden was one of the best decisions made by Joe Biden. We lack the foresight to deem such decisions egregiously wrong at this moment.

What reforms are necessary in India's clemency process, and what lessons can be drawn from the Hunter Biden case?

SH: Given the nature of the power, one can at best have guidelines. However, ultimately executive discretion has to be trusted. We have seen our former Presidents exhibit varied views regarding the death penalty. One can also see how gubernatorial discretion played out in the release of A.G. Perarivalan, one of the convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. The Governor obstructed his release despite the Tamil Nadu government's recommendation. Ultimately, the Supreme Court had to intervene and order his release. The use of clemency powers in the case also signified the closing of a long and painful chapter. While public curiosity may lead to second-guessing these decisions, it is often not in the greater public interest to do so.

APK: I believe comprehensive reforms are needed in the system of release of convicts. The Supreme Court is already cognisant of a batch of petitions on this issue. We need to prioritise reformative justice. Reformation is only achievable when individuals are given the assurance that, through good behaviour and genuine repentance, they may earn an early release – serving, for instance, seven years instead of 14. While these convicts have been incarcerated for legitimate reasons, the state must focus on their rehabilitation, as some of them have the potential to become valuable members of society. We should expedite processes like parole and remission, ensuring mercy extends beyond just death penalty cases.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

The difficulty of documenting a tragedy

It is difficult to say whether the sense of detachment that photojournalists acquire over the years is real or not

Thulasi Kakkat

A photojournalist reacts to an accident or a calamity much like an emergency worker. But since most of us have no training in saving lives, or rescuing people, what really drives us to reach these places like first responders? To see fellow human beings lying trapped under debris, waiting to be rescued or worse, needs a mental makeup of a different kind, especially since we really cannot do much apart from recording it on camera.

At the site of a disaster, a photojournalist is expected to truthfully and objectively convey reality. It is generally accepted that there is no moral responsibility to interfere with the events that are unfolding in front of the lens. While looking into the face of a tragedy, we are there to tell the story in a single frame. However, every photojournalist would agree that there have been instances where they have grappled with the dilemma of what is right and wrong.

For instance, not too long go, there was an accident in Kerala. Three migrant labourers, who were widening the gutter on the side of the road, were seriously injured when the concrete wall of the building nearby collapsed on them. One of them succumbed to injuries and the other two were extricated from the rubble after hours of hard work by rescue personnel.

A few days after the incident, a photojournalist said something to me with a hint of remorse. While news channels were showing visuals of the tragedy, he was still half an hour away from the accident site. He wanted to rush there to get the image of the workers caught under the debris. It was only after he clicked the photo that he saw the agony in the eyes of the injured. While he had rushed there to merely do his job, he regretted that his first thought was to get a "good" picture as soon as possible. He said he then prayed that the workers would be taken to safety as soon as possible.

Tragedies leave an impact on a photojournalist in different ways. In August, when landslides triggered by torrential rainfall occurred in Wayanad, wiping out two villages entirely, hundreds were trapped beneath the earth. The first thought that came to my mind captured the magnitude of the tragedy: maybe this is how civilisations ended. I covered the 2018 floods and landslides in Kerala and I have been asked several times whether such events leave me untouched. It is a fact that the tragedy is not mine and yet it is. It is difficult to say whether the sense of detachment that photojournalists acquire over the years is real or not.

One of the most difficult situations that I was forced to handle took place in June 2024. More than 45 Indians were killed in a fire that broke out in a building in Kuwait and the bodies were brought back home to Kerala. The homes of the victims were pictures of grief. I vividly remember the scent of the incense, the dirges that seemed to go on for hours, and the shock on the faces of the family members. One instance in particular left a lingering ache. A 27-year-old man's body was placed in a freezer at the centre of the living room of his house. There was silence in the hall and the thought that I would be shattering it with the click of my camera was unbearable. The man's mother, who was sitting close to the freezer, suddenly began talking to him. She begged him to wake up, and called out the names of those who had come to see the body. She was clearly in denial. In the midst of this, I hurriedly clicked two pictures. They always bring a lump to my throat.

Just as we can see the photographer in a photograph, we can equally see the effect that a tragedy has had on the photographer reflected in the frames. We photojournalists go back home every time after we cover a tragedy with the hope that the images will serve as an irrefutable truth of what happened. And what should not happen.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

The end of an era

People walk on a dirt road leading to the notorious Saydnaya prison, synonymous with the worst atrocities of ousted Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's rule, such as arbitrary detention and torture. People in Damascus gathered on on December 9 to celebrate day after Assad fled, even as Islamist-led rebels swept into the capital. AFP

FROM THE ARCHIVES — The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 13, 1974

Criteria for opening new post offices

New Delhi, Dec. 12: The Union Minister of Communications, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, told Mr. P.R. Shenoy in the Lok Sabha yesterday that profit was not the main criterion for opening new post office. But for opening public call offices, profit is one of the criteria but not the main one. So far as rural areas were concerned, a new post office in a normal area should earn at least 25 per cent of the cost as income, 10 per cent of cost in hilly area and 15 per cent in other very backward areas. In urban areas the income from the new post office should be at least equal to the cost of the post office.

In rural areas, new post offices are opened at a distance of 4.8 kms from an existing post office and for villages with gram panchayat, schools and NES blocks, the distance from the nearest post office is reduced to 3.2 kms. A loss upto Rs. 500 per annum is borne by the Government in rural areas if the population to be served is less than 2,000 and upto Rs. 750 per annum for a population of 2,000 or more.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DECEMBER 13, 1924

Vaikom Satyagraha

Cochin, Dec. 11: The Satyagrahis are picketing at the four barricades as usual. Mr. Vinobha of the Wardha Satyagraha Ashram met by appointment the Vaikom oppositionist leaders at the residence of Mr. Indanthurithi Nambyathiri and discussed with them the situation. He was accompanied by Mr. T.R. Krishnaswamy Iyer, Manager of the Ashram; and the prominent oppositionist leaders included Mr. Indanthurithi Nambyathiri, Mr. M.K. Raman Pillai, Mr. Vadakkumkoor Valia Rajah and Venkatrama Iyer.

From Page One

Gukesh is youngest world chess champ

Gukesh is also only the 18th world champion in history, which dates back to 1886. That there have been only 17 undisputed World champions before him puts into perspective the enormity of the achievement.

His campaign had begun on the wrong foot, though. He lost the first game, despite having white pieces (considered slightly advantageous usually). The second game was drawn, and Gukesh won the third to equalise the match at 1.5-1.5.

All the following seven games were drawn. Then Gukesh won the 11th game to take the lead for the first time in the match, but Ding struck back immediately to draw level. That meant the match would go to the bitter end, contrary to the expectations of most top players, who had tipped Gukesh as the clear favourite, based on current form.

By virtue of being the champion, Ding, who defeated Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi in last year's World title match, had booked his flight ticket to Singapore. Gukesh qualified for the World championship by winning the qualifying tournament – the Candidates, which was held earlier this year in Toronto.

There were two other Indians in the Candidates (R. Praggnanandhaa and Vidit Gujrathi), as well as two in the Women's event (Koneru Humpy and R. Vaishali). After that, Gukesh went on to play a major role in India's stunning twin triumph at the Chess Olympiad in Budapest.

India's men's and women's teams won the team gold. Only two other countries had done it before – the erstwhile Soviet Union and China.

Gukesh played on the top-board (where every country would usually field its best player) and won the individual gold.

SC halts new suits on claims over mosques

"Civil courts cannot run a race with the Supreme Court. It is as simple as that," said Justice K.V. Viswanathan, a member of the Bench, addressing the Union government and the petitioners who have challenged the validity of the Act.

The Bench directed that local courts must neither register fresh suits nor undertake any proceedings on them until further orders from the Supreme Court. "Further, we direct that in pending suits, courts will not pass any effective interim or final orders," Chief Justice Khanna said, dictating the order in a crowded courtroom.

The Chief Justice's dictation was repeatedly interrupted by the petitioners who had challenged the 1991 Act. They urged the court not to freeze proceedings in the local courts without first hearing their plea.

"When the Supreme Court is examining the matter, will it be just and fair for other courts to pass orders? Is it not proper for them to stay their hands? We are looking at the legality, contours, and ambit of the 1991 Act," Chief Justice Khanna said. When the interruptions continued, the Chief Justice Khanna firmly said, "Whatever order we have to pass, we will pass," adding that the Bench could even retire to chambers to pronounce its order. The next hearing in the case is on February 17.

Of the 18 pending cases, the Chief Justice noted that the top court itself was dealing with appeals against orders passed by local courts at Varanasi and Mathura in Uttar Pradesh to survey the premises of the Gyanvapi and Shahi Eidgah mosques, respectively.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Union government, said that third parties cannot seek a stay of civil suit proceedings. The Centre was given four weeks to file its counter-affidavit in the case, which it has not done for the past four years. Senior advocate Vijay Hansaria argued that civil suits cannot be stayed while entertaining writ petitions concerning the Places of Worship Act.

"These writ petitions [challenging the 1991 Act] had brought up the matter of the civil suits. Notice was already issued in these petitions. Secondly, other writ petitions [by minority organisations and parties] have raised the issue of enforcing the 1991 Act against these civil suits. They have called for injunction," Chief Justice Khanna responded.

Senior advocate Vikas Singh, for the petitioners, sought a reference to a five-judge Bench.

On this, the Chief Justice said the court would consider this case in the light of the Ramjanmabhoomi judgment delivered by a five-judge Bench in November 2019.

Six killed in massive fire in T.N. hospital

Several people were rescued by the Fire and Rescue Services personnel. The total number of casualties is yet to be ascertained at the time of filing this report at 11 p.m.

Minister for Rural Development I. Periyasamy, Minister for Food and Civil Supplies R. Sakkarapani, former Minister Dindigul C. Sreenivasan, Dindigul Collector M.N. Poongodi, Dindigul Superintendent of Police A. Pradeep and Palani MLA I.P. Senthil Kumar rushed to the spot. Vedasandur MLA Gandhirajan and former MLA Paramasivam also visited the spot.

Addressing mediapersons, Ms. Poongodi said the fire broke out around 9.45 p.m. "The rescue operations at City Hospital have been completed. We are yet to ascertain the cause of the fire accident," the Collector said.

Debate on Constitution to kick off in LS today

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha will on Friday begin a two-day debate on the Constitution to mark the beginning of the 75th year of its adoption in the country.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to reply to the debate on Saturday.

Congress leader and Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is likely to make her maiden speech in the Lok Sabha during the debate.

Sources said Ms. Vadra will be the first speaker from the Opposition benches.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi will be one of the key speakers but it is not clear when he would make his intervention.

The Rajya Sabha will hold the debate on Monday and Tuesday. Mr. Modi is expected to reply to it on Tuesday.

The debate on the Constitution has been the key demand of the opposition for the Winter Session of Parliament.

Both the Congress and the BJP have issued three-line whips to all their members to be present in the House on Friday and Saturday.

(With inputs from PTI)

Centre committed to protecting country's heritage: Shekhawat

India is making 'transformative strides' in tourism, says Culture Minister, slamming those who have a problem with pace and scale of development

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of the controversy over contesting claims on heritage sites of a religious nature, Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Thursday said the government was committed to protecting the country's heritage.

Addressing a press conference here, Mr. Shekhawat said there were people who had a problem with the pace and scale of India's development.

The government was committed to exposing such people as well as preserving the country's heritage for the coming generations, Mr. Shekhawat said.

The Minister said the Kumbh Mela, to be held from next month, would be showcased as a confluence of cultures from across the country and nearly 45 crore people would be visiting the mega fair.

"The Maha Kumbh being organised at Prayagraj from January 13 to February 26, 2025 will showcase the rich, spiritual and cultural heritage of our country to the world," he said.

Mega festival: Preparations under way for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Prayagraj ahead of the Maha Kumbh Mela. ANI

He also spoke about the "transformative strides" in tourism, detailing infrastructure developments, global promotional campaigns, and projects aimed at enhancing India's cultural and tourism landscape. He said intensified efforts were being made to make tourism an integral part of building a *Viksit Bharat*.

A total of 76.17 million jobs had been created in the tourism sector. The 'Paryatan Mitra' & 'Paryatan Didi' programmes had been launched. Foreign exchange earnings were estimated to be $28.07 billion, marking a 42.53% increase compared with 2014. He said domestic tourist numbers had seen a remarkable increase of 95.64%. India's ranking in the global travel and tourism development index had improved to 39 from 65.

Over ₹6,800 crore had been spent on destination development projects. Projects worth ₹3,295.76 crore had been approved for development of lesser-known tourism sites.

The e-tourist visa facility had proven to be very beneficial for the visitors, the Minister said.

Many fake narratives on privatisation, says Railway Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Ashwini Vaishnaw

Project to connect Kashmir with Kanniyakumari to be ready in four months

Responding to a debate on the Railways (Amendment) Bill 2024 in the Lok Sabha, Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has said that a fake narrative is being created that the passing of the draft legislation will pave the way for privatisation.

"I sincerely urge the House to not create any fake narratives in this regard," Mr. Vaishnaw said on Wednesday.

Mr. Vaishnaw added that there was a need to depoliticise the sectors of defence and Railways, as they form the backbone of the country.

The Minister said that 31,000 km of railway track had been laid since 2014 and electrification along the tracks completed through public investment. "1,300 railway stations are being redeveloped, nearly 37,000 LHB coaches have been made by the government for 140 crore Indians," he said.

He added that after demands from several MPs to introduce general coaches, the Railways was initiating a drive to manufacture 12,000 general coaches. "900 general coaches have been added in the current financial year, and work on rolling out 10,000 coaches is on track," Mr. Vaishnaw said.

Mr. Vaishnaw said the "dream project" to connect Kashmir to Kanniyakumari via rail network would soon be a reality. The project involves running a Vande Bharat train until Srinagar. Currently, the rail connectivity is till Jammu. "The project is almost ready, and testing and safety certification work is on currently. In the next four months, we will see trains running along the network," Mr. Vaishnaw said.

The Vande Bharat train will run atop the Chenab Bridge, at a height of 359 metres, which is 35 metres taller than the Eiffel Tower in France, he added.

Security forces kill seven Maoists in Chhattisgarh encounter, recover arms

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

The biggest encounter in the history of Chhattisgarh was carried out in Abujhmad in October, leaving 38 Maoists dead. PTI

Seven Maoists, including two women cadre, were killed in a gun battle with security forces in the Abujhmad forests along the Dantewada-Narayanpur boundary in Chhattisgarh on Thursday, the police said.

The encounter began around 3 a.m. and continued for a few hours. Around 7 p.m., the police updated that seven bodies of Maoists had been recovered and the search operation was on.

The operation was carried out by personnel from the District Reserve Guard from Kondagaon, Bastar, Narayanpur and Dantewada, along with the State's Special Task Force (STF) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). They proceeded after receiving information about the presence of Maoists in Abujhmad, a dense and large forested area covering the districts of Bijapur, Dantewada and Narayanpur.

The biggest encounter in the history of Chhattisgarh was carried out in Abujhmad in October leaving 38 Maoists dead.

In a statement the police said that all the slain Maoists were in uniform and were likely from the Indravati area. The process to identify them was pending. A large quantity of daily use items and weapons, were recovered.

It added that the forces did not suffer any casualties.

Rahul meets 2020 Hathras victim's kin, promises fight with all might for justice

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi reaches Bholgarhi village to meet the family members of a gang-rape victim in Hathras on Thursday. PTI

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Thursday reached Hathras in Uttar Pradesh to meet the family of a Dalit woman who died allegedly after being gang-raped in September 2020.

"Today, I went to Hathras and met the victim's family. The whole family still lives in fear. They are being treated like criminals. They cannot move freely – they are kept under surveillance of guns and cameras at all times. The promises made to them by the BJP government have not been fulfilled till date. Neither have they been given a government job nor has the promise of shifting them to some other place been fulfilled," Mr. Gandhi posted on X.

"But we will not let this family be forced to live in this condition. We will fight with all our might to get them justice," he said.

The 19-year-old Dalit girl was gang-raped by the accused hailing from dominant caste groups on September 14, 2020.

She died on September 29 in New Delhi during treatment. The victim was cremated in the early hours of October 30, with her family alleging the local police had forced them to conduct the last rites in the dead of the night.

In February 2023, an SC/ST court acquitted three out of the four accused and convicted one for culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

Lok Sabha passes Bill to amend the Disaster Management Act of 2005

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The new Bill seeks to bring clarity and convergence among stakeholders in the field of disaster management. THULASI KAKKAT

The Lok Sabha on Thursday passed a Bill to strengthen the working of national and State disaster management authorities, with the Centre stressing that the legislation will help State governments deal with disasters better.

The House cleared the Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024 by a voice vote. Several amendments moved by the Opposition members were negated.

Pointing out that State governments had flagged several difficulties in implementing the Disaster Management Act of 2005, Union Minister Nityanand Rai said the new Bill would not only overcome them but also strengthen the disaster management system. The Bill seeks to bring clarity and convergence among stakeholders working in the field of disaster management.

"When a disaster hits, it hits the country as a whole; this Bill will prepare the country to handle disasters better," he said.

Many Opposition members, however, said that the Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024 only talks about creation of a plethora of organisations. Saugata Roy of the Trinamool Congress alleged that the Modi government was not able to manage the pandemic properly and a large number of people died. He said, "This Bill creates a plethora of organisations and has added a number of English terms".

Captain Viriato Fernandes of the Congress said that while the members were talking about following a holistic approach to deal with disasters, the Bill seemed to have gone against that approach.

Another Congress member, G.K. Padavi, pointed out that climate change had not been included in the Bill and the word "compensation" had been replaced with "relief". "It (promotes) over centralisation," Mr. Padavi said.

India votes in favour of ceasefire in Gaza

Press Trust of India
UNITED NATIONS

India on Wednesday voted in favour of a UN General Assembly resolution that demanded an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire in Gaza and reiterated the demand for unconditional release of all hostages.

The 193-member UN General Assembly has overwhelmingly approved resolutions demanding an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and backing the UN agency for Palestinian refugees that Israel has moved to ban.

India was among the 158 nations that voted in favour of the resolution.

APPEAL

Baby Shreyan Das 4 years old son of Sanjoy Das is admitted Mazumdar Shaw Medical Center and is diagnosed with Thalassemia Major. Only curative treatment is Bone Marrow Transplant. They are planning TCR Alpha/ Beta and CD 45RA Depletion Therapy for this patient. Estimated cost is approximately Rs.25,00,000/-

Kindly send donation however small by Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Shreyan Das, **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No.20000913487, State Bank of India, R.A.Puram and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, You can also donate through Google pay No.9884607377, UPI Id: savepoorlives@oksbi. Donation to save Poor Lives is exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

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Union Cabinet gives approval for Bills on simultaneous polls

Move paves way to introduce draft legislation in Parliament; Tamil Nadu and West Bengal CMs term it an attack on democracy and federalism

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

> Our MPs will oppose this draconian legislation tooth and nail in Parliament. Bengal will NEVER bow to Delhi's dictatorial whims
>
> **MAMATA BANERJEE**
> West Bengal CM

The Union Cabinet on Thursday approved two Bills related to the implementation of simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the Assemblies, paving the way for the introduction of the draft legislation in Parliament in the ongoing Winter Session.

One of the Bills is to amend the Constitution to introduce simultaneous elections, while the other is to amend provisions in laws dealing with Union Territories that have Legislative Assemblies to align their terms with those of other Assemblies.

The development evoked sharp responses from the Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, who called the draft Bills "an attack on democracy and federalism".

No official announcement has been made so far, but sources said the Bills would be referred to a joint committee of Parliament, once they are introduced in the House.

For now, the Cabinet has given its approval to the draft legislation for simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies. The Constitution amendment Bill to hold simultaneous polls will not require to be ratified by at least 50% of the States, the sources added.

A high-level committee, headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind, had also recommended holding simultaneous polls to municipalities and panchayats, but the Cabinet has decided not to get into the issue of synchronising local body polls. This would have not only required a Constitution amendment, to insert a new Article 324A, but also ratification by half the Assemblies.

Taking to the social media platform X, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said, "This impractical and anti-democratic move will erase regional voices, erode federalism, and disrupt governance. Rise up #INDIA! Let us resist this attack on Indian democracy with all our strength!"

In a separate X post, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee called it "an authoritarian imposition designed to undermine India's democracy and federal structure".

"Our MPs will oppose this draconian legislation tooth and nail in Parliament. Bengal will NEVER bow to Delhi's dictatorial whims. This fight is about saving India's democracy from the clutches of autocracy!" she said.

Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh, in an X post, reiterated the party's opposition to simultaneous polls and shared Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's letter to the Kovind panel. "There is no place for the concept of simultaneous elections in a country that has adopted parliamentary system of government. Such forms of simultaneous elections that are being floated by the government go against the guarantees of federalism contained in the Constitution".

The second Bill on simultaneous elections pertains to aligning the terms of the Legislative Assemblies of the Union Territories of Puducherry, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir with other Legislative Assemblies and the Lok Sabha.

Stalin, Pinarayi inaugurate renovated Periyar memorial in Kerala's Vaikom

The Hindu Bureau
KOTTAYAM

Grand launch: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin and other leaders pay tribute to a portrait of Periyar, at Vaikom in Kottayam district on Thursday. PTI

The strong political solidarity between the governments of Kerala and Tamil Nadu was on full display as Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his Tamil Nadu counterpart, M.K. Stalin, came together at Vaikom in Kottayam district of Kerala on Thursday to inaugurate the renovated memorial to Tamil reformist leader E.V. Ramasamy Naicker, fondly known as Thanthai Periyar.

Mr. Stalin inaugurated the renovated memorial, while Mr. Vijayan presided over a public function organised to mark the occasion. K. Veeramani, president of the Dravidar Kazhagam, was the chief guest.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Vijayan emphasised the importance of cooperation between the two States, describing it as a true example of cooperative federalism.

He called for the expansion of this collaboration, especially at a time when the States face "increasing encroachments on their rights, including fiscal autonomy".

'Across borders'

"In the Vaikom Satyagraha, we witnessed coexistence and cooperation across borders. Kerala and Tamil Nadu continue to embody that spirit. If Periyar stood for the self-respect of individuals, today's times demand that States stand up for their self-respect," Mr. Vijayan said.

In his inaugural address, Mr. Stalin highlighted the historic significance of the Vaikom Satyagraha, describing it as the genesis of numerous social reform movements in India. "Vaikom was not just an isolated victory; it marked the beginning of greater victories. Let us remain steadfast in our efforts to achieve continuous success in all spheres. Whatever obstacles come our way, we will overcome them. An egalitarian society will be established at all costs," he said.

> **Vaikom was genesis of numerous social reform movements in India, says Tamil Nadu Chief Minister**

Mr. Stalin said modern developments had not been able to remove discrimination in society completely and only a change of heart among the people would help attain an egalitarian society.

"A change of heart among the people [against discrimination] is necessary. Not everything could be controlled by legislation. People should work towards an egalitarian society and that rationalist and scientific thinking should grow," he said.

Shared vision

Mr. Stalin reiterated Tamil Nadu and Kerala's shared vision of creating an egalitarian society, adding that their cooperation would persist in the years to come.

As part of the ceremony, Kannada writer and Vaikom Award winner Devanur Mahadeva was honoured. He expressed Tamil Nadu's gratitude to Kerala for its efforts in establishing and renovating the memorial.

The event was attended by several dignitaries, including Kerala's Devaswom Minister V.N. Vasavan, Minister for Culture Saji Cherian, Tamil Nadu Public Works Minister E.V. Velu, and Minister of Information and Public Relations M.P. Swaminathan.

Earlier in the day, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister took a brief walk along the streets of Vaikom town, greeting the residents who had gathered to catch a glimpse of him.

In April as well, Mr. Stalin and Mr. Vijayan had come together in the backwater town here to jointly inaugurate the Vaikom Satyagraha centenary fete.

Ajit and other leaders of the NCP call on Sharad Pawar in New Delhi

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Nationalist Congress Party leader and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar called on his uncle and Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) leader, Sharad Pawar, on his 84th birthday in New Delhi on Thursday.

He was accompanied by his wife and Rajya Sabha member, Sunetra Pawar, and NCP leaders Praful Patel, Sunil Tatkare and Chhagan Bhujbal. They were greeted by Supriya Sule, MP. "There are family relations beyond politics. I came to seek the darshan of *Saheb* and *kaki* [Sharad's wife Pratibha Pawar]. It is *Saaheb*'s birthday today, and *kaki*'s birthday tomorrow. So we came to wish them. We had a general discussion about several things. He asked about the Parbhani violence, about the Cabinet expansion. We had breakfast together, and then we left," Mr. Ajit said.

'A courtesy visit'

As the meeting set off speculation, Mr. Bhujbal said, "There is no reason for any political speculation. He is a senior leader. We have all worked together for so many years. Ajit has seen him since his childhood. I had suggested to everyone that we go to wish him on his birthday. Accordingly, this courtesy visit was planned. Pawar *Saheb* called the MPs of his party when we went there. We all sat together for some time and came back."

Kharge accuses Dhankhar of misusing power, suppressing Opposition voices in the House

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Scathing attack: Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar and Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge during the Winter Session. PTI

Continuing the attack on Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, in a long post on X on Thursday, listed out 10 charges against Mr. Dhankhar, alleging that "trampling of democracy" and "subjugation of truth" have become the "autocratic norm" in the Upper House.

Mr. Kharge said that since he was not permitted to speak in the House, he was placing before the people 10 points on why the Opposition has lost trust in the Chairman. The Chairman's conduct, he said, has raised serious concern over his "impartiality" with "frequent criticisms of the Opposition and an abuse of the powers vested in the Chair".

His foremost charge against Mr. Dhankhar is of "suppression" of Opposition voices through "persistent heckling, unwarranted insistence on authentication, unfair remarks and refusal to list issues of public importance for discussion". He accused him of "misuse of power" by suspending the members and extending these suspensions beyond a single session. "He has misused the sanctity of the Chair to praise his political ideologue RSS," he said.

The Chairman, Mr. Kharge said, "displays unwarranted sycophancy of the government within the House and also outside it".

Comments on walkouts

"On various occasions, he has equated the Prime Minister with Mahatma Gandhi, has held it wrong to seek the accountability of the Prime Minister by the Opposition.

He has commented even on walkouts by the Opposition, even though it is a well-honoured Parliamentary tool," Mr. Kharge said.

He accused the Chairman of not allowing discussion under Rule 267, bias in Sansad Television coverage and neglecting key Parliamentary tools.

The Opposition, Mr. Kharge said, was not allowed to seek clarifications and counter questions. "The Chairman has taken unilateral decisions on significant matters, such as relocating statues and altering the security apparatus without consulting the concerned committees," he said.

The Congress chief's scathing criticism comes a couple of days after Opposition INDIA bloc parties submitted a notice in the Rajya Sabha for moving a no-confidence motion against Mr. Dhankhar accusing him of being "extremely partisan".

Rajya Sabha stalled again as no-trust notice, allegation over Soros lead to uproar

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

> **Nadda says House Chairman's ruling cannot be questioned or criticised**

The Rajya Sabha failed to function again on Thursday, as the stand-off continued between the Treasury benches and the Opposition over the no-trust notice against Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar, and the BJP's allegations of the Congress leadership's "connections" to billionaire George Soros and his activities aimed at "destabilising" the country.

The Upper House functioned for less than an hour. The first adjournment came during Zero Hour when Mr. Dhankhar rejected six notices to adjourn the scheduled business and take up matters mentioned in the notices.

Leader of the House J.P. Nadda slammed Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge for holding a press conference in which he criticised Mr. Dhankhar.

"The Chairman's ruling cannot be questioned or criticised," Mr. Nadda said.

Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien raised a point of order demanding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi come and apprise the House of the situation in Bangladesh. Mr. Dhankhar did not allow Mr. O'Brien to speak further, stating that it was not a point of order.

He invited Janata Dal(S) leader H.D. Deve Gowda to speak. Mr. Gowda criticised the Opposition for tabling a no-confidence notice against Mr. Dhankhar.

Mr. Kharge raised a point of order after the speech, and said that the ruling coalition's members were making reckless allegations. "You are listening and encouraging," he told Mr. Dhankhar. The Chairman adjourned the House for the day.

MP moves breach of privilege against Rijiju

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha member Sagarika Ghose on Thursday submitted a notice of breach of privilege against Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju. Nearly 60 Opposition members are said to have signed the notice.

Ms. Ghose, who is the Trinamool's deputy leader in the House, said Mr. Rijiju's behaviour was "totally unbecoming and unacceptable" and a "clear misuse" of his office.

She accused him of "abusing" the Opposition.

Lok Sabha adjourned twice after BJP's Nishikant Dubey raises Soros issue

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Nishikant Dubey

As BJP member Nishikant Dubey on Thursday attacked the Congress in the Lok Sabha yet again over its alleged links with billionaire investor George Soros, the principal Opposition party questioned how the MP was allowed to raise the issue repeatedly during Zero Hour.

Mr. Dubey's act of raising the matter during Zero Hour and the resulting protests from the Congress led to two adjournments in the House, which was otherwise running smoothly since the morning.

Congress MP Mohammed Jawed shot off a letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla seeking a review of the process of allowing members to raise matters in the Zero Hour noting that Mr. Dubey had been allowed to raise matters in Zero Hour four to five days in a row.

"These are the preplanned designs by Narendra Modi*ji* to not run the House," Congress General Secretary K.C. Venugopal told presspersons.

'Destroying norms'

Later in a post on X, he said: "MP Nishikant Dubey is hand-picked to abuse, troll and insult the Congress leadership with utter lies. The PM has given him the special task of destroying parliamentary norms and making derogatory statements that lower the dignity of our esteemed Lok Sabha."

"But the question on everyone's minds is – how does he get the chance to spew such venom everyday on the same subject? How does he win the ballot every day, when our MPs are denied the chance to speak? This is a matter of grave concern that brings the integrity of our Parliamentary system into question," he added.

Congress MP Manickam Tagore also wrote to the Speaker on alleged derogatory references made by Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday when Congress Deputy Leader Gaurav Gogoi raised the issue of violence in Manipur again during the Zero Hour.

भारत सरकार GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
अंतरिक्ष विभाग DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION
सतीश धवन अंतरिक्ष केंद्र शार SATISH DHAWAN SPACE CENTRE SHAR
श्री हरिकोटा-524 124, तिरुपतिजिला (आ.प्र.) SRIHARIKOTA-524 124,TIRUPATI DT. (A.P)

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INBRIEF

Jharkhand CM steps in to help workers trapped in Cameroon

A group of 47 migrant workers from Jharkhand who are trapped in Cameroon have received partial payment of their wages after an intervention by Chief Minister Hemant Soren. Taking note of a complaint that the workers had not been paid for three months, the CM also directed Labour Commissioner Sanjeev Kumar Besra to register a first information report (FIR) against the employers and middlemen who sent them to Cameroon in a fraudulent manner. The FIR says that the workers were sent without registering them as migrant labourers under the Interstate Migrant Workers (Regulation of Employment and Service Conditions) Act, 1979 and without obtaining the requisite license.

NIA arrests Trinamool worker in BJP leader murder case

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Wednesday arrested another Trinamool Congress worker in the 2023 murder of BJP leader Bijoy Krishna Bhuiyan at Moyna in West Bengal. Ahead of panchayat elections in May last year, Bhuiyan's body was recovered from a hospital around 20 km from Moyna, hours after he was allegedly abducted by a mob. He was the BJP's booth president at Moyna. The NIA arrested one Suvendu Bhowmick from a village in Moyna in connection with Bhuiyan's murder and brought him to Kolkata. Bhuiyan's family had alleged that Mr. Bhowmick was involved in the murder. The NIA conducted search operations in Goramahal and adjacent areas of Moyna as part of probe in the murder case earlier this year.

Bangladesh team likely to attend Vijay Divas event

Moyurie Som
KOLKATA

Indian Army sources said on Thursday that a delegation from Bangladesh was likely to attend the Vijay Divas celebrations at the Eastern Command headquarters here on December 16.

The day marks India's historic victory over Pakistani forces in the 1971 Liberation War and the consequent formation of Bangladesh from erstwhile East Pakistan.

Veterans to participate
Defence sources said the Bangladeshi delegation might include *muktijoddhas* (Bangladeshi freedom fighters) who were part of East Pakistan's freedom struggle in 1971.

This news follows high-level talks between Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Chief Adviser of Bangladesh Muhammad Yunus, Bangladeshi Foreign Affairs Adviser Touhid Hossein, and Foreign Secretary Mohammad Jashim Uddin in Dhaka on Monday.

Mr. Misri's visit came two weeks after the Dhaka Metropolitan Police had arrested Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das in a sedition case, which led to a sociopolitical turmoil on both sides of the Bengal border.

Consumer inflation eases slightly to 5.5% in November

Inflation remains high in rural India, but eases in cities; vegetables inflation eases from 42% in October to 29%; pulses inflation drops to a two-year low; oils and fats inflation shoots up 13%

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's retail inflation cooled slightly to 5.5% in November from a 14-month high of 6.2% in October, but remained significantly elevated for rural consumers at 5.95%, while dropping to 4.8% for their urban counterparts.

Food inflation, which has been a bugbear for hopes of an interest rate cut, also eased a tad from October's 15-month peak of 10.9% to 9.04% in November. Rural consumers experienced a slightly higher uptick of 9.1% while urban consumers saw an 8.74% gain in prices.

This marks the third straight month of food inflation staying above the 9% mark, and overall consumer price rise of over 5%.

Vegetable prices ease
Vegetables inflation eased from a 57-month high of 42.2% in October to 29.33%. However, oils and fats inflation shot up 13.3%, the highest pace in two-and-a-half years, and significantly over the 9.5% rise in the previous month and the mere 2.5% inflation in September.

"The decline in inflation in November 2024 is mainly due to decline in inflation in 'food & beverages' group," the National Statistics Office (NSO) said, pointing to a significant drop in price rise observed in vegetables, pulses, sugar, fruits, eggs, milk, spices, transport, communication, and personal care and effects. But these moderations were only marginal in some cases.

On the other hand, the highest inflation at an all-India level in November was recorded in garlic (85.14%), potato (66.65%), cauliflower (47.7%), cabbage (43.58%), and coconut oil (42.13%). On a month-on-month basis, the Consumer Price Index was 0.15% lower than October and the Food Price Index was down 0.6%, with urban consumers experiencing greater relief.

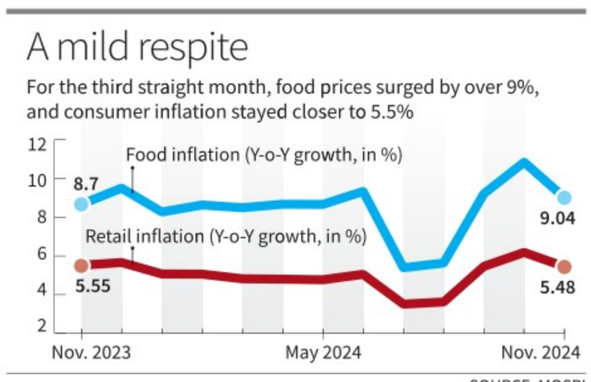
Fruits inflation eased only marginally from 8.4% in October to 7.7% in November. Pulses inflation dropped to 5.4%, the lowest in at least two years, and cereals inflation stood at 6.9%. Personal care and effects inflation remained elevated at 10.4%, though it was a tad lower than the 11% surge recorded in October.

Spike in six States
Six of the 22 States (including the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir), for which the NSO calculates monthly inflation rates, observed a price rise of over 6% – the upper limit of the Central bank's inflation target – in November. These are Chhatisgarh (8.4%), Bihar (7.55%), Odisha (6.8%), Uttar Pradesh (6.6%), Kerala (6.3%), and Madhya Pradesh (6.05%).

Delhi recorded the lowest inflation of 2.65%, and was the only State to record a price rise below the Reserve Bank of India's median inflation target of 4%.

November marked the onset of correction in vegetables prices, led by tomatoes and other seasonal winter vegetables, and the food price shock is now dissipating. This trend that is likely to continue over the next two to four months, QuantEco Research economists Shubhada Rao, Vivek Kumar and Yuvika Singhal said in a note.

"However, for annualised inflation to ease, we need to see a combination of four conditions transpiring – tomato prices have room to correct further; winter vegetable price correction needs to exceed seasonal trends; oils & fats inflation has a very strong persistence owing to second-order impact which needs to dissipate; and last but not the least, robust Rabi crop should bring down cereal inflation, especially for wheat," they underlined.



General Ashok Raj Sigdel

India confers honorary rank on Nepal Army chief

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu conferred the honorary rank of 'General of Indian Army' on Nepal's Army chief General Ashok Raj Sigdel at a ceremony here on Thursday.

The honour was given to him for his commendable military prowess and immeasurable contribution to further fostering Nepal's long and friendly association with India, according to a statement issued by the President's office.

There has been a tradition set by Nepal and India since 1950 of conferring the title of Honorary General on the Army chief of each other.

Nepal's President Ramchandra Paudel last month conferred the honorary rank on Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi at a special ceremony – also known as Sheetal Niwas – in Kathmandu.

Is celebrating Tipu Jayanti banned, asks Bombay HC

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Thursday questioned the Maharashtra government's move to restrict the birth anniversary celebrations of Tipu Sultan. A Division Bench of Justices Revati Mohite-Dere and Shivkumar G. Dige asked, "Is there a ban to celebrate the birth anniversary of Tipu Sultan?

The petition, filed by the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul-Muselimeen's Pune city president, said that initially the party sought permission to take out a procession on the birth anniversaries of Tipu Sultan and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad along with Constitution Day, but it was denied by the Pune Rural Police.

Jharkhand HC stays law on 75% reservation for locals in private jobs

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

In a major setback to the Hemant Soren government, the Jharkhand High Court has stayed the implementation of the 75% reservation for local candidates in jobs in private companies in the State.

A Division Bench of Chief Justice M.S. Ratna Sri Ramachandra Rao and Justice Deepak Roshan delivered the verdict on Wednesday. The Jharkhand Small Scale Industries Association ((JSSIA) argued in court that the law requiring 75% of the positions to be reserved for locals violated the principles of equality, non-discrimination, and the right to conduct business. It said the law was not constitutional.

The court directed the State government to file a reply, and the next hearing would be on March 20.

Right to equality
On behalf of the JSSIA, advocates Amit Kumar Das, Shivam Utkarsh Sahay and Sankalp Goswami argued that the Jharkhand State Employment of Local Candidates in Private Sector Company Act, 2021, violated the right to equality and freedom to do business. Therefore, it should be repealed. Mr. Das said, "This Act has created a clear division between candidates from the State and those from outside Jharkhand."

He said the implementation of the Act was against the principles of the Constitution which guaranteed equality in employment.

The lawyer argued, "The State government cannot direct private companies to give employment only to people of a certain category."

The court was told that the Haryana government had also implemented a similar law, which had been struck down by the Punjab-Haryana High Court.

After hearing the petitioner's argument, the Division Bench said a decision had already come from the Punjab and Haryana Court in a similar case and stayed the law. The law has been in force in the State from 2021.

JMM slams BJP
Reacting to the court's order, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha MLA Samir Mohanty accused the BJP of being behind the appeal.

"The BJP is behind it so that our government cannot recruit our people in private sector. These people are in the habit of putting obstacles so that Hemant Soren cannot deliver development in the State," Mr. Mohanty told reporters on the last day of the special session of the Jharkhand Assembly.

Former Chief Minister and BJP MLA Champai Soren said, "Let's see what kind of reply the State government is giving in the High Court, then only I will comment on it."

Delhi court acquits former Coal Secretary and five others in coal scam case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Wednesday acquitted six persons, including former Coal Secretary and two other public servants, in a case of an alleged scam in allocation of two coal blocks in Odisha in 2012 investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Special judge Sanjay Bansal of the Rouse Avenue court ruled that the Central agency failed to prove the charges framed against the accused, including former Secretary of the Union Ministry of Coal H.C. Gupta and two senior officials, K.S. Kropha and K.C. Samria. They were absolved of charges under the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and the Indian Penal Code.

Officials of the Coal Ministry did not scrutinise company's application, the CBI had alleged

The court acquitted the company NPPL and its managing director, Y. Harish Chandra Prasad, and chairman P. Trivikrama Prasad. The two were booked for offences under the two laws.

"...When the application has been found to be complete, when the applicant company NPPL has been found to be eligible company and when no misrepresentations were made by the company, no question arises for existence of any conspiracy. It is held that prosecution has failed to prove any conspiracy," the court noted in its acquittal order.

Lack of scrutiny
The CBI alleged that the NPPL had obtained coal blocks at Rampia, Dipside of Rampia and Mandakini in Odisha by making fraudulent misrepresentations about its net worth and land, which are important criteria to qualify for the coal block allocation.

It was alleged that the officials of the Coal Ministry did not scrutinise the company's application and hence facilitated it in getting undue advantage in allocation of the coal blocks.

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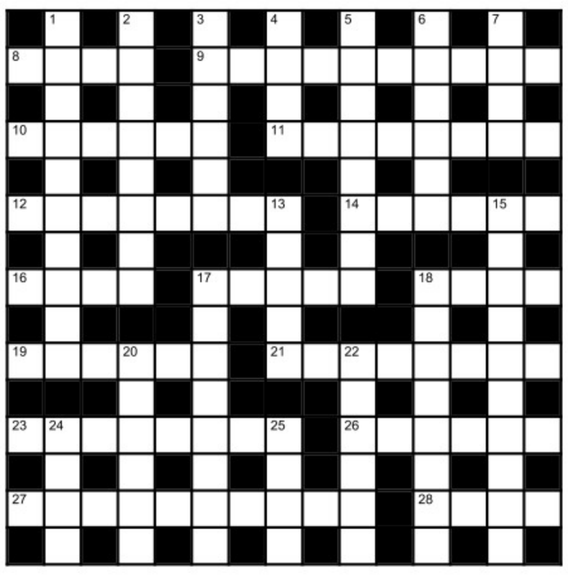
To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across
8 Wild fire is common occurrence (4)
9 Simple men take a bit of trouble to create tools (10)
10 Hardship from gold contract (6)
11 Confidential remark in play from behind scene on stage, "Reserve" (3-5)
12 Told letter by letter, "S-L-E-P-T" (5,3)
14 Lad takes master's degree in Mumbai (6)
16 Specs covered by high definition cloaking device (4)
17 Little one in South America produces diving equipment (5)
18 Before operation, doctor gets a small quantity of liquid (4)
19 Longs to start new service after 12 months (6)
21 Where to get sustenance at school from difficult puck shot (4,4)
23 Goes ahead and gets revenue (8)
26 Grinder gives up right to get time for grain (6)
27 Positive remark... Remark about curling of lip (10)
28 Hide peel (4)

Down
1 Bend chrome pin around ring to make sound equipment (10)
2 Rose, pretty girl hugged by communist (8)
3 Rhode Island female singer is in marketplace (6)
4 In ship, father builds health clubs (4)
5 TV bearer breaks this, perhaps? (8)
6 Juliet and alien American uncle discarded rubbish at sea (6)
7 Macho guy is boss (4)
13 Believe model has iron oxide (5)
15 Sorry, a poetic protection covers record (10)
17 Problematic city mess affects the whole organisation (8)
18 Inform, "Daughter's nearby" (8)
20 Formula to cook broken rice with a pinch of pepper and a drop of egg (6)
22 Hot after celestial traveller arrives in medieval times (6)
24 King chasing Australian animal and knight's neighbour (4)
25 Stage return of domestic animals (4)

SUDOKU

	9	8						4
				3		6		
5	1			9				
				4	5			2
		7	2		6	5		
4			9	1				
				2			9	7
		1		6				
7						1	3	

No.SS6368 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

B	U	A	S	S	C	F		
G	I	F	T	L	U	N	C	H
O	S	L	O	L	E	A	U	A
F	A	E	L	A	N	D	S	B
E	N	E	F	I	T	S	S	K
B	G	I	S	P	O	I	L	A
G	E	H	A	N	G	A	R	U
L	D	A	W	S	T	A	S	H
E	S	A	I	L	E	R	O	N
I	N	I	C	R	K	N	I	G
H	T	M	U	D	S	L	I	D
E	O	R	P	R	O	S	U	B
P	O	E	N	A	A	R	G	Y
L	E	S	H	N	L	W	U	U
C	E	D	E	C	R	A	N	E
E	R	N	E	D	R	H	S	R
S	G							

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	7	4	6	2	8	5	3	1
3	8	5	7	9	1	4	2	6
1	6	2	4	3	5	9	8	7
5	4	3	1	7	2	6	9	8
6	1	8	9	5	4	2	7	3
2	9	7	3	8	6	1	5	4
7	3	1	2	4	9	8	6	5
4	5	9	8	6	3	7	1	2
8	2	6	5	1	7	3	4	9

FAITH

Nammazhwar's exaltation

Scriptures say that God is formless, pure, blemishless and eternal. However, He takes various forms for the sake of human beings. He is still unsatisfied, as many have not enjoyed or experienced His divine ecstasy. So, He chose to send His messengers as acharyas, apostles, saints and seers. Lord Krishna proclaims that Sruthi and Smruthi are His dictates and commands. Although they are exhaustive and elaborate, Azhwars and acharyas condense them and give them in a nutshell. The work *Thiruvaimozhi* by Nammazhwar contains the essence of Vedas and Upanishads and is considered nectar.

Velukkudi Sri Krishnan Swamy said in a discourse that anyone can surrender to God to fulfil any desire or objective. Draupathi surrendered to be saved from being humiliated by the wicked Duryodhana, and the elephant Gajendra surrendered to render service to God. The apostle Nammazhwar surrendered to derive moksha. The two essential things needed for attaining moksha are to restrain from worldly activities and to show deep love and affection towards God. Nammazhwar wondered why moksha was delayed, though he observed the two requisites. When a house is caught on fire, its neighbours become restive. Nammazhwar says he was like the neighbour caught amid the people surrounded by the fire of worldly mundanes. The apostle asks whether God wanted him to suffer as it is challenging to get out of delusions. He says further that he needs more patience and asks why there is a delay. God only knows what to give when, how, and to whom. It was God's cherished desire to guide the people through the apostle.

INBRIEF

TransUnion CIBIL names Bhavesh Jain as MD & CEO

TransUnion CIBIL, which is into insights and information, has appointed Bhavesh Jain as MD and CEO. He will replace Rajesh Kumar who resigned after a five-year stint. Mr. Jain has been promoted from the position of chief revenue officer. He had previously worked at Thompson Reuters, Citi and Kone. "Bhavesh is an accomplished leader with a passion for helping India's economy continue to grow," said Todd Skinner, president, TransUnion International.

On day 2, Vishal Mega Mart IPO subscribed 1.53 times

The ₹8,000-crore initial share sale of supermarket chain Vishal Mega Mart got fully subscribed on the second day of bidding on Thursday, ending with 1.53 times subscription. The initial public offer (IPO) got bids for 1,15,74,96,150 shares against 75,67,56,757 shares on offer, according to NSE data. The portion for non-institutional investors attracted 3.80 times subscription while the share of retail individual investors got subscribed 1.16 times. PTI

HDFC Bank gets a SEBI warning communiqué

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has sent an administrative letter of warning to HDFC Bank on non-compliance with provisions relating to merchant bankers, insider trading and disclosure compliance, as per a filing. The bank said the letter relates to observations during periodic inspection of investment banking activities, thereby claiming non-compliance with some provisions of the SEBI (Merchant Bankers) Regulations. These were minor, technical violations, said sources.

CEA seeks a fix for mental health crisis afflicting the young

India's demographic dividend: V. Anantha Nageswaran flags worries about a 'whole generation' of anxious and depressed youth

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) V. Anantha Nageswaran sought to draw attention to the mental health crisis among India's youth and called for collective action to ensure that not only does the country create jobs and address skill gaps for the young, but also ensure their physical as well as mental well-being.

While listing out some of the priority areas in the economy that need attention such as generating productive employment, tapping the full potential of the agricultural sector, enhancing manufacturing and micro, small and medium enterprises, he said, "There is on thing that I have not included here."

"The focus should also be on the mental health of India's demographic dividend, the prevalence of massive screen time, sedentary habits and ultra-processed food consumption is making a whole generation anxious, depressed and prone to suicidal thoughts," he said at a Confederation of Indian Industry event held here.

"It is not just a government responsibility, but the responsibility of society and the private sector as well. If India is to reap the demographic dividend, Indians should not only be physically healthy, but also be mentally healthy," the CEA underlined.

Open mind: The CEA said the government is not ruling out that many factors may have caused the second quarter growth blip. PTI

Deregulation, energy security, balanced rural-urban development and making the 'Made in India' label synonymous with high quality through innovations, research and development and quality consciousness, were some of the other essentials Mr. Nageswaran prescribed for the economy.

Growth slowdown

Referring to the slide in the GDP growth to a seven-quarter low of 5.4% in the July-September quarter, the CEA, who had earlier termed the slump as a 'one-off' blip, said there could have been a number of factors at work and the government is not "necessarily ruling them out".

"It is not that we think that the second quarter slowdown is purely a data artefact, and as more data comes in, it will automatically be upgraded. Numbers could be revised higher, or, for that matter, it could be a simple seasonal factor because of rains or some religious observance in September, etc." he said.

"It could also be something more fundamental as the ability of the State to spend what is budgeted and also what is going on post-COVID in the private sector, in terms of hiring and compensation, etc.

"But nonetheless, I think, the fact remains that we will be on track to achieve the kind of growth numbers we had penciled in the Economic Survey in July, somewhere between 6.5% and 7% for the whole financial year," he said.

Oct. industrial output scales 4-month high

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

India's industrial output grew at a three-month high pace of 3.5% in October, from 3.1% in September, with factories leading the uptick again with a 4.1% rise, while mining and electricity growth remained anaemic at 0.9% and 2%, respectively.

In absolute terms, output levels were at a four-month high in October, with the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) at 149.9, 2.2% over September.

Base effects had some role to play in the relatively mild growth in October as the IIP rose 11.9% in the same month of 2023. For instance, tepid mining growth came on the path of a 13.1% rise in October 2023 but reflected highest output in four months.

On the basis of end-use, consumer durables led the way for the second straight month, rising 5.9% in October after a 6.5% growth in September, likely linked to factories pushing out products for the festive season. However, durables production in October was 2.2% lower than in the month of September.

Consumer non-durables also grew 2.7% relative to a 9.7% uptick last October, marking the best growth in six months. Apart from non-durables, three other end-use segments showed a mild improvement in growth – primary goods (up 2.6%), intermediate goods (3.7%), and infrastructure goods, which rose at a three-month high of 4%. Capital goods' output growth slowed to 3.1%, and production was 6.2% below September levels.

Moreover, 18 of the 23 manufacturing segments recorded a growth in output, the same as September, with five sectors recording a double-digit growth, including electrical equipment (33.1%), furniture (27.7%), and other transport equipment (17.4%). The number of segments with higher year-on-year output were just 12 in August, when the IIP had contracted fractionally.

'Encouraging sign'

"The improvement in growth of consumer goods output despite high inflation in October is quite an encouraging sign for consumption demand in the economy," said Paras Jasrai, senior economic analyst at India Ratings and Research. He reckoned that the IIP may rise 4.5% in November.

Overall industrial output growth stays muted compared with 2023-24, when it rose 7% in the first seven months of the year. Between April and October this year, industrial production is up 4%, with manufacturing rising 3.8%.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	81,290	-0.29
US Dollar	84.88	-0.05
Gold	80,900	0.62
Brent oil	72.77	-0.35

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2504.10	46.85
Adani Ports	1244.00	10.20
Apollo Hosp	7227.10	-113.70
Asian Paints	2389.55	-27.75
Axis Bank	1145.65	-1.60
Bajaj Auto	8963.25	-106.60
Bajaj Finserv	1679.30	-7.20
Bajaj Finance	7125.80	10.70
Bharat Elec	312.95	-1.15
Bharti Airtel	1610.55	24.55
BPCL	302.15	-5.30
Britannia Ind	4828.35	-61.15
Cipla	1445.40	-8.70
Coal India	409.10	-7.85
Dr Reddys Lab	1245.40	6.85
Eicher Motors	4807.65	5.70
Grasim Ind	2660.05	-10.70
HCL Tech	1936.20	5.30
HDFC Bank	1859.25	-3.85
HDFC Life	626.55	-8.10
Hero MotoCorp	4556.75	-93.70
Hindalco	668.70	-1.80
Hind Unilever	2344.95	-56.40
ICICI Bank	1329.25	1.75
IndusInd Bank	997.95	13.10
Infosys	1987.00	12.85
ITC	460.60	-4.65
JSW Steel	1005.80	5.60
Kotak Bank	1768.70	-26.00
L&T	3859.90	-56.85
M&M	3067.45	-4.60
Maurti Suzuki	11167.40	-110.35
NestleIndia	2224.05	-17.00
NTPC	355.60	-9.90
ONGC	254.05	-2.55
PowerGrid Corp	329.20	1.65
Reliance Ind	1262.90	-15.30
SBI Life	1432.50	-23.65
State Bank	853.70	-7.90
Shriram Finance Ltd.	3248.10	-0.15
Sun Pharma	1805.45	-8.55
TataConsumerProduct	921.25	-13.80
Tata Motors	786.35	-12.75
Tata Steel	150.78	0.18
TCS	4454.95	27.50
Tech Mahindra	1789.60	26.80
Titan	3445.75	-27.35
Trent Ltd.	7012.50	-50.80
UltraTech Cement	11856.95	-41.55
Wipro	309.10	0.10

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on December 12

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	84.66	84.98
Euro	88.88	89.22
British Pound	107.84	108.25
Japanese Yen (100)	55.58	55.80
Chinese Yuan	11.65	11.70
Swiss Franc	95.48	95.85
Singapore Dollar	62.97	63.21
Canadian Dollar	59.84	60.06
Malaysian Ringitt	19.07	19.16
Australian Dollar	54.19	54.40

Source:Indian Bank

Samsung accuses CCI of detaining employees, seizing data unlawfully

Reuters
NEW DELHI

Samsung obtained an injunction from the High Court that has put on hold the CCI proceedings

Samsung has accused India's competition watchdog of unlawfully detaining its employees and seizing data in a raid carried out in connection with an antitrust investigation on Amazon and Walmart's Flipkart, according to a legal filing.

Samsung is embroiled in the Competition Commission of India's (CCI) investigation that in August concluded that the South Korean giant and other smartphone companies broke anti-trust laws by colluding with Amazon and Flipkart to exclusively launch products online.

Samsung's October 11 filing in the High Court in Chandigarh seeks to quash the investigation findings related to conduct of the company, arguing the CCI had illegally seized material from its employees during a 2022 raid at one of Amazon's vendors. Three Samsung employees were present in the vicinity of the search when the watchdog's officials detained them, seized their phones and copied all the confidential and privileged data, the company said in its 32-page filing, which hasn't been made public.

"The entire search exercise undertaken... is patently illegal and any material collected thereunder should not be relied upon and should be promptly returned," the Indian unit of South Korea's Samsung Electronics wrote. The CCI "should be prohibited from using or relying upon the data and information unlawfully collected," it added.

Samsung and the CCI did not respond to Reuters queries. Samsung has obtained an injunction from the High Court that has put on hold the CCI proceedings, but the court has not yet ruled on its requests to return the data seized and to not allow the commission to rely on it.

The CCI has challenged Samsung and 22 other parties that have won similar injunctions from high courts across India, and last week asked the Supreme Court to hear all challenges together, saying the companies were trying to scuttle the investigation.

The CCI investigation had found that Amazon and Flipkart both breached competition laws by favouring select sellers on their platforms. Amazon and Flipkart have repeatedly denied wrongdoing, even as brick-and-mortar retailers continue to complain about their deep discounting and other practices.

In its court filing Samsung also asserted that it was wrongly found to have breached competition laws in collusion with Amazon and Flipkart, even though it had been cooperating with the watchdog and providing information only as a third-party in the case.

Track cases in NCLT, NARCL to minimise delays, FinMin tells banks

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry on Thursday asked banks to closely monitor cases in NARCL and NCLT to minimise procedural delays and adjournments so that bad loan resolution matters are expedited.

An integrated portal is being developed by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs for seamless information flow to banks on the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) cases, the finance ministry said in a statement. The decision was taken in a review meeting chaired by Department of Financial Services Secretary M. Nagaraju to address key operational challenges and enhance the efficiency of resolution mechanisms through the National Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (NARCL) and NCLT. The discussion on cases at NARCL centred on expediting timelines for the resolution of accounts.

The Secretary underscored NARCL's pivotal role as a specialised entity designed to accelerate the resolution of large-value stressed assets, thereby, strengthening the financial ecosystem, it said.

During the meeting, it was informed that NARCL had so far acquired 22 accounts with an exposure of ₹95,711 crore.

Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
An Autonomous body under Ministry of MSME, Govt of India
Foundry Nagar, Agra - 282006 (U.P.)
Extension Centre - Coimbatore Organizes
Tally Prime with GST
[Employable Level Program]
COURSE CONTENT: 1) Tally Prime-Introduction, 2) Accounting Management, 3) Inventory Management, 4) Recording Transactions, 5) Outstanding Management, 6) GST Fundamentals, 7) Recording of GST Transactions & GST E-filing, 8) Generating GST Monthly Returns, 9) GST Reconciliation.
Training Methodology: Business Segment Scenarios,
• Manufacturing / Trading / Service,
• 80% Practical Session
For Registration
Date : 21, 22, 28, 29th Dec 24 & 04th Jan 25
Time : 09.30 A.M - 01.30 P.M
Fees : 4720/-(Inclusive of GST)
5 Days (week-ends) Online Training Program
For more Details: 7358887633, 9600776611, 8667359360
Visit us at:www.ppdcagra.dcmsme.gov.in
E-Certificate will be Awarded
Disclaimer: Be aware of fraudulent activities. We never ask to make payment on any personal account.

माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड, राजस्थान, अजमेर
E- Tender Notice providing services of Live CCTV Cameras Surveillance system
बोर्ड परीक्षा 2025 के लिए परीक्षा केन्द्रों एवं उत्तर पुस्तिका संग्रहण केन्द्रों पर Turnkey Basis पर Live CCTV Cameras Surveillance system हेतु खुली निविदा जिसकी अनुमानित लागत 3 करोड़ रूपये है, दिनांक 11.12.2024 से दिनांक 02.01.2025 अपरान्ह 3.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र विस्तृत विवरण बोर्ड वेबसाईट http://rajeduboard.rajasthan.gov.in. एवं राज्य सरकार उपापन पोर्टल http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in से डाउनलोड कर प्राप्त किये जा सकते है।
UBN NO : SEB2425WSOB00042
सचिव

मुख्यमंत्री निःशुल्क जाँच योजना
Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Limited, Jaipur
D-Block, Swasthya Bhawan, C-Scheme, Jaipur - 302005
Ph. No. 0141-2223887, Fax No. 0141-2228065 E-mail : edepmrmsc-rj@nic.in
No. F-8()RMSC/EPM/M-4/NIB-870/2024-25/537 Dated: 10.12.2024
NOTICE INVITING BID
Bid for item Maternity Cot are invited from interested bidders up to Date: 02-01-2025 : 06:00 P.M. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on Procurement portal website "https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in/" or "www.dipronline.org" or "https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in/" or website "http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in".
UBN:- MSC2425GLRC00054
Raj.Samwad/C/24/8944 Executive Director (EPM)

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED
Notice Inviting Bid
1. Bid for Erection Testing Commissioning for Construction of 20 Km S/C Line from 132 KV GSS Sumerpur to 132 KV GSS Sanderao with 20% Line on double circuit Towers (10% each on the approach section of both ends) on Labour Contract basis are invited from interested bidders upto 03.01.2025(4.00 PM) under BN-9018002427(UBN:VPN2425WSOB02241).
2. Bid for Erection Testing Commissioning for Construction work of 132 kV S/C Kolukheri-Manoharthana line (55 KM) on Labour Contract basis are invited from interested bidders upto 03.01.2025(4.00PM) under BN-9018002428 (UBN:VPN2425WLOB02242).
3. Bid for Erection Testing Commissioning for construction of 132 Kv Line 132 KV S/C Mangrol-itawa line (approx. 30 km) on Labour contract basis are invited from interested bidders upto 03.01.2025(4.00PM) under BN-9018002429 (UBN:VPN2425WLOB02243).
Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state, and www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvpnl. Departmental website.
RRVPN/TR-6508/2024 Superintending Engineer (Contracts-I), Jaipur
Raj.Samwad/C/24/8943

Soban Singh Jeena Government Institute of Medical Science & Research Almora
Near Vikas Bhawan, Pandeykhola, Almora, Distt-Almora - 263601 (Uttarakhand)
e-mail-principal.gmcalmora@gmail.com http://www.ssjgimsralmora.org
Mob. No.. +91 9456305966 Phone/Fax No.: 05962-230557
Letter No.:- 2762/GMCA/G-1/Advertisement/2022-23 Date: 12-12-2024
Walk-In-Interview
A Walk In Interview for various post of "Professor, Associate Professor & Assistant Professor" for Soban Singh Jeena Government Institute of Medical Science & Research Almora will be held on dated 21-12-2024 at 10:00am onwards in the "Office of the Pricipal, Soban Singh Jeena Government Institute of Medical Science & Research Almora". Registration will be done on the day of interview till 2:00pm only. The post will be filled on yearly renewal contract basis for a maximum period of 03(three)years or till regular appointment are made.
For further details please visit our website:-
http://www.ssjgimsralmora.org,
www.medicaleducation.uk.gov.in & www.hnbumu.ac.in
Principal
SSJ Gov. IMSR, Almora.

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED.
Regd. Office PSPCL Head Office, The Mall, Patiala
(Corporate Identification Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813)
Website : www.pspcl.in, Contact No 96461-12763
TENDER ENQUIRY No. 160/Dy.CE/Th.Op./263/Vol-3/GHTP/2024 Dated10/12/2024
Dy. Chief Engineer / Thermal Operation Circle GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat invites E-tender for the work : To assist in the work under thermal operation in the execution of operational jobs of all four units of GHTP Statge-I & II round the clock in three shifts and during general duty hours at GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat.
Tender Id: 2024_POWER_131395_1
For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 11/12/2024 from 17:00 hrs onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
GHTP - 98/24 76155/12/3725/2023/39982

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED
(MATERIAL MANAGEMENT & CONTRACT WING)
NEW POWER HOUSE, INDUSTRIAL AREA, JODHPUR-342003
PHONE: (0291) 2742223 FAX: (0291) 2746539
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
E-Procurement Tender is invited for supply of 11/0.433 KV, 40 KVA, Aluminium Wound EEL-1 (IS: 1180-1:2014+4 Amendment) Star-1 Rating Completely Self Protected (CSP) Distribution Transformers with having provision of LT Bushing Box TN-2025 (UBN JVV2425GLOB00671), 11/0.433 KV, 25 KVA, Aluminium Wound EEL-1 (IS: 1180-1:2014+4 Amendment) Star-1 Rating Completely Self Protected (CSP) Distribution Transformers with having provision of LT Bushing Box TN-2026 (UBN JVV2425GLOB00670) and 11/0.433 KV, 16 KVA Three phase Aluminium Wound EEL-1 (IS: 1180-1:2014+4 Amendment) Star-1 Rating Completely Self Protected (CSP) Distribution Transformers with having provision of LT Bushing Box TN-2027 (UBN JVV2425GLOB00669), and 9.0 M long 200 Kg. PCC Poles Under TN-2032 (UBN JVV2425GLOB00672).
Details regarding Quantity, Tender cost, Earnest Money, Schedule date of tender opening for aforesaid tenders are available on our website at www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvvnl and also at http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in
Raj.Samwad/C/24/8952 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM&C)
बिजली शिकायतों के लिए टोल फ्री नम्बर– 1800–180–6045

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, C.V. Raman Nagara Division, 8th Cross, 12th A Main Road, HAL 2nd Stage, Indiranagara, Bengaluru - 560 038.
No:EE/CVR/KPPP/08/2024-25 Dated: 10.12.2024
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System)
(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)
Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the work mentioned below from the registered contractors of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations.

Sl No.	Name of the works
	Works Reserved for SC Category
1.	Improvements to Road and Drain at Byappannahalli and Surrounding area in Ward No-110. Approx. value of work: ₹.50,00,000.00, EMD (in ₹.) according to Govt. Order: ₹.50,000.00
2.	Improvements to Road and Drain at Ambedkarnagara and Surrounding area in Ward No-110. Approx. value of work: ₹.50,00,000.00, EMD (in ₹.) according to Govt. Order: ₹.50,000.00
	Works Reserved for ST Category
3.	Improvements to Road and Drain at Sudamnagari and Surrounding area in Ward No-114. Approx. value of work: ₹.50,00,000.00, EMD (in ₹.) according to Govt. Order: ₹.50,000.00
	Works Un-Reserved Category
4.	Improvements to Road and Drain at Gajendranagara Slum and Surrounding area in Ward No-110. Approx. value of work: ₹.50,00,000.00, EMD (in ₹.) according to Govt. Order: ₹.1,00,000.00
5.	Improvements to Road and Drain at Indira Colony and Surrounding area in Ward No-108. Approx. value of work: ₹.50,00,000.00, EMD (in ₹.) according to Govt. Order: ₹.1,00,000.00
6.	Improvements to Road and Drain at Doddiguntta, Coxtown and Surrounding area in Ward No-108. Approx. value of work: ₹.50,00,000.00, EMD (in ₹.) according to Govt. Order: ₹.1,00,000.00
7.	Improvements to Road and Drain at Murphytown, Jayarajanagara and Surrounding area in Ward No-113. Approx. value of work: ₹.100,00,000.00, EMD (in ₹.) according to Govt. Order: ₹.2,00,000.00
8.	Improvements to Road and Drain at Lakshmipuram and Surrounding area in Ward No-113. Approx. value of work: ₹.100,00,000.00, EMD (in ₹.) according to Govt. Order: ₹.2,00,000.00

Calendar of Events : (1) Date of Pre-bid meeting on 18.12.2024 at 11:00 am. (2) Last Date for uploading the filled proposal is 24.12.2024 upto 4:00 pm. (3) Date of opening of Technical Proposals is 26.12.2024 at 11:00 am. (4) Date of Opening of Financial Proposals after approval of Technical Proposals through KPP Portal.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, CV Raman Nagara Division

NEW YORK

Trump named Time magazine's 'Person of the Year' for second time

AP

Time magazine named Donald Trump its "Person of the Year" for the second time, recognising his historic political comeback and influence. The magazine highlighted his role in reshaping the American presidency and driving a significant political realignment, marking a notable moment in contemporary politics. AP

MOGADISHU

Somali federal forces retreat from Jubaland positions after clashes

AP

Somali federal troops have retreated from the southern Jubaland region following clashes with regional forces led by Ahmed Madobe. The fighting, which occurred in Ras Kamboni, escalated tensions over a disputed election, with Jubaland officials claiming they regained control of the town. AFP

GAZA STRIP

Gaza rescuers say Israel killed 33, including 12 guards, in air strikes

REUTERS

Gaza's civil defence agency reported that Israeli air strikes on Thursday killed at least 33 people, including 12 guards securing aid trucks in southern parts of the Palestinian territory. The latest bloodshed came just hours after the UN General Assembly called for an immediate ceasefire in the devastated territory. AFP

SOFIA

EU states agree to full Schengen accession for Bulgaria, Romania

REUTERS

EU states on Thursday cleared Bulgaria and Romania to become full members of the borderless Schengen zone from the start of next year, officials said, following a 13-year wait for the two eastern European nations. Created in 1985, the Schengen zone currently comprises 29 members. AFP

S. Korea President Yoon defends martial law, vows to 'fight to end'

Main Opposition Democratic Party criticised the President's televised speech as 'extreme delusion' and submitted a new impeachment motion against him; authorities are investigating if Yoon and others committed rebellion or abuse of power

Associated Press
SEOUL

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol defended his martial law decree as an act of governance and denied rebellion charges, vowing on Thursday to "fight to the end" in response to attempts to impeach him and intensifying investigations into last week's dramatic move.

The main Opposition Democratic Party quickly slammed Mr. Yoon's speech as "an expression of extreme delusion" and "false propaganda". Later on Thursday, it and other Opposition parties submitted a new impeachment motion against Mr. Yoon for a floor vote this weekend.

Civic uproar: Demonstrators take part in a protest calling for the ouster of Yoon Suk Yeol outside City Hall in Seoul on Thursday. AFP

The Opposition-controlled Parliament also passed motions on Thursday to impeach and suspend Mr. Yoon's police chief and Justice Minister over the imposition of martial law, escalating the pressure on Mr. Yoon's embattled government.

Mr. Yoon's short-lived December 3 martial law declaration has generated political chaos and large protests calling for his ouster.

The decree brought hundreds of armed troops who attempted to encircle Parliament and raid the election commission, though no major violence or injuries occurred. Martial law lasted only six hours as Mr. Yoon was forced to lift it after the National Assembly unanimously voted it down.

In a televised speech on Thursday, Mr. Yoon, a conservative, said he enacted martial law as a warning to the liberal Democratic Party. He called the party "a monster" and "anti-state forces" that he said tried to use its legislative muscle to impeach top officials, undermined the government's Budget Bill for next year and sympathised with North Korea.

Kim Min-seok, head of a Democratic Party task force, dismissed Mr. Yoon's statement as "an expression of extreme delusion" and "a declaration of war against the people".

The country's law enforcement authorities are investigating whether Mr. Yoon and others involved in imposing martial law committed rebellion, abuse of power and other crimes. A conviction for rebellion carries a maximum penalty of death.

Media groups slam Israel over 'journalist massacre'

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Israel has been accused of carrying out a "massacre" of journalists in Gaza in two separate reports from media freedom organisations this week that analysed the deaths of reporters worldwide this year.

According to calculations from Paris-based Reporters Without Borders (RSF) published on Thursday, the Israeli Army killed 18 journalists as they were working this year – 16 in Gaza and two in Lebanon – around a third of the total worldwide of 54.

"Palestine is the most dangerous country for journalists, recording a higher death toll than any other country over the past five years," RSF said in its annual report, which covers data up to December 1.

REPORTERS SANS FRONTIERES
POUR LA LIBERTE DE L'INFORMATION
REPORTERS SANS FRONTIERES
POUR LA LIBERTE DE L'INFORMATION

RSF described the number of killings as 'an unprecedented massacre'. AFP

The organisation has filed four complaints with the International Criminal Court (ICC) for "war crimes committed against journalists by the Israeli Army".

It said that in total "more than 145" journalists had been killed by the Israeli Army in Gaza since the start of the war there in October 2023, with 35 of them working at the time of their deaths.

RSF described the number of killings as "an unprecedented massacre".

With foreign reporters prevented from entering the territory and local reporters being deliberately targeted, Gaza was "a place where journalism itself is threatened with extinction", RSF said.

In a separate report published on Tuesday, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) said that 104 journalists were killed worldwide in 2024, with more than half of them in Gaza.

The IFJ and RSF figures vary because of different methodologies used to calculate the tolls, but the IFJ used similar language to condemn Israel's military.

Israel denies that it intentionally harms journalists, but admits that some have been killed in air strikes on military targets.

Iran Guards say to act on new 'realities' in post-Assad Syria

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

The head of Iran's Revolutionary Guards said the country has to live with the new "realities" of Syria after the ouster of Tehran-backed President Bashar al-Assad, state media reported on Thursday.

Regarding Syria, Iran "was really trying day and night to help in whatever way it could; we have to live with the realities of Syria; we look at them and act based on them," Hossein Salami said, quoted by the official *IRNA* news agency.

"Strategies must change according to the circumstances; we cannot solve numerous global and regional issues with stagnation and employing the same tactics," he added.

Iran has been a strong ally of the Assad family, whose decades-long rule of Syria ended on the weekend when a whirlwind rebel offensive took the capital Damascus.

Mr. Assad had long played a strategic role in Iran's anti-Israel "axis of resistance", particularly in facilitating the supply of weapons to Tehran's ally Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Community despair

Residents walking across a market reopened after sectarian clashes in Parachinar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in Pakistan. Thousands of people are stranded without food in parts of remote Kurram district as the government struggles to end the Sunni-Shia conflict. AFP

Taiwan detects 16 Chinese warships around the island

Agence France-Presse
TAIPEI

Taiwan said on Thursday it detected 16 Chinese warships in waters around the island, one of the highest numbers this year, as Beijing intensifies military pressure on Taipei.

The Navy vessels, along with 34 Chinese aircraft, were spotted near Taiwan in the 24 hours to 6.00 a.m. on Thursday, according to the Defence Ministry's daily tally.

Around 90 Chinese warships and coast guard vessels have been involved in the exercises that include simulating attacks on foreign ships and practising blockading sea routes, a Taiwan security official said on Wednesday.

There has been no announcement by Beijing's Army or Chinese state media about increased military activity in the East China Sea, Taiwan Strait, South China Sea or Western Pacific Ocean.

The sea drills were "significantly larger" than Beijing's maritime response to then-United States House speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taipei in 2022, which were the largest-ever war games till then.

Bottom trawling by Indian fishermen must stop: Sri Lanka's Fisheries Minister

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

The enduring fisheries conflict in the Palk Bay – which impacts fisher folk of northern Sri Lanka and daily wage fishermen of Tamil Nadu – can be decisively resolved only if the Indian side stops using the destructive bottom-trawling method, according to Sri Lanka's Minister of Fisheries Ramalingam Chandrasekar.

The fisheries conflict has remained a key diplomatic issue between India and Sri Lanka for many years. It is likely to be discussed during President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's scheduled visit to India next week.

"People from all ethnic groups and geographic regions, including the north, east, and hill country, voted for us [National People's Power alliance], giving us a big mandate in the recently held elections. We have a responsibility to address their concerns," said Mr. Chandrasekar, who represents the northern Jaffna district in parliament. "The long-persisting problem of bottom trawlers used by Indian fishermen, originating from Tamil Nadu, has been the chief concern of our northern fishing communities," he told *The Hindu* on Wednesday at the Ministry of Fisheries.

Solving the Indo-Lanka fisheries conflict is part of the NPP government's comprehensive plans to enhance Sri Lanka's fish production using modern technology and sustainable methods, he said. The country's per capita fish consumption, which was 17.2 kg in 2017, has now declined to 11.07 kg, reflecting a reduction in people's protein intake, according to the NPP's pre-poll manifesto. Malnutrition has come under sharp focus, especially after the country's painful economic crash in 2022. "We need to enhance seafood production to ensure people have access to nutrition. To do all that, we need our sea and our marine biodiversity to be protected," Mr. Chandrasekar said.

Sri Lanka's Minister of Fisheries Ramalingam Chandrasekar at his office in Colombo on Wednesday. MEERA SRINIVASAN

Destructive method

The fisheries conflict in the Palk Bay is largely over competing livelihoods amid a fast-depleting catch. While a bilaterally agreed, imaginary maritime boundary line demarcates territorial waters of the neighbours, northern Sri Lankan fishermen have for long pointed to bottom trawling as the underlying problem.

"Bottom trawlers" are fishing vessels that typically drag large fishing nets along the seabed, scooping out everything from eggs and baby fish to marine vegetation, in addition to the target catch of fish or shrimps. For several decades, Indian fishermen from different coastal states, including Tamil Nadu, have used the practice that has boosted India's seafood exports and yielded high profits.

After discussing the issue in a 2016 bilateral meeting, India and Sri Lanka set up a 'Joint Working Group' that, among other things, agreed to "expedite the transition towards ending the practice of bottom trawling at the earliest". However, there has been no respite, according to Tamil fishermen living along Sri Lanka's northern coast, who are among the worst affected in the island's protracted civil war that ended in 2009. Fifteen years since, they have been unable to rebuild their livelihoods, primarily because of the damaging effects of bottom-trawling by Indian fishermen.

Sri Lanka banned the practice in 2017 and imposed stiff fines on foreign vessels in 2018. Despite the moves, and the ceaseless appeals from their northern Sri Lankan counterparts, Tamil Nadu fishermen are yet to give up the destructive practice.

On the other hand, daily wage Tamil Nadu fishermen engaged by the trawler owners are frequently arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy on charges of engaging in illegal fishing in Sri Lanka's territorial waters, and the vessels are seized. The arrests so far in 2024 total over 530, more than double last year's figure. Over 400 of those have been released and repatriated, official updates showed.

On Wednesday, Indian High Commissioner Santosh Jha called on the Minister at his office and "stressed for a humanitarian & constructive approach in addressing the fishermen issue. Requested early release of fishermen in custody," the High Commission posted on X.

Sri Lanka greatly valued India's critical and timely assistance during the economic crisis of 2022, and President Dissanayake's government appreciates the importance of the country's India ties, the Sri Lankan Minister noted. "India is not only Sri Lanka's close neighbour and important development partner, but a country that shares historic and cultural ties... Our grandparents and great grandparents hailed from India," said Mr. Chandrasekhar, who is from Sri Lanka's Malaiyaha [hill country] Tamil community, brought down by the British two centuries ago to work in Sri Lanka's plantations. "Many of us still have familial links in Tamil Nadu," he said, urging the people and governments of India and Tamil Nadu to see the "larger picture" in the fisheries problem.

"There is a tendency to view the fisheries conflict as one between Tamil Nadu fishermen and the Sri Lankan Navy... but they must understand that bottom-trawling has severely affected the livelihoods of Tamil fishermen in northern Sri Lanka, who have suffered huge losses during the war," he said.

Crown prince Gukesh ascends the throne in style

The Indian prodigy dethrones Ding after the GM from China blunders in Game 14; the 18-year-old triumphs 7.5-6.5 to become the youngest World champion in chess history

FIDE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SINGAPORE 2024

P.K. Ajith Kumar
SINGAPORE

At certain points in sporting history, some remarkable events take place. So remarkable, they defy belief.

Such an event took place on a humid Thursday evening at Equarius Hotel here in the island called Sentosa. D. Gukesh, at the age of 18, won the World chess championship.

That is, of course, a World record, which stayed with Garry Kasparov since 1985. He was 22 when he won the World championship after beating fellow Soviet Union player Anatoly Karpov in an epic, bitter battle that lasted over a year.

Now, the World chess championship is one of the hardest things to win in international sport.

It is played over a long series of matches that test the mental endurance to the maximum, not to mention the physical exertion.

The defending champion is seeded directly to the title match, while the challenger has to win the qualifying tournament called the Candidates. And to make it to the Candidates, a player has to come through a long, tough process.

When Gukesh won the Candidates, he became the youngest challenger. Now the question was if he could become the youngest champion.

The answer came this unforgettable evening for Indian sport.

After Gukesh made his 58th move with his king, Ding, the 17th World champion and the first from China, resigned in a hopeless position, conceding defeat.

Gukesh wept.

He wept in joy. Much in contrast to what happened a day earlier, when he had to agree to draw, after squandering a winning chance.

It was indeed a great escape for Ding. And that wasn't the first time he was doing it here.

Somehow, when he seemed on the brink, on the board, and on the clock, he would find the right move - even if it was the only move and any other would have doomed him. Like he did with his rook in Game 13.

But in Game 14, after he blundered with his rook - yes, the very piece - he had no chance. There was no scope for yet another Houdini act.

Heading for a draw

The game was heading towards a draw - and that meant the match could go to the tie-breaks on Friday - in an ending featuring rook-and-same-coloured bishops.

Gukesh had an extra pawn, but that wasn't going to be enough.

The only possibility of a decisive result was a big blunder.

That was what happened when Ding took his rook to the 'f2' square on the 55th move. He could have taken the rook to another square, or he could have played with his bishop, and he would have been safe.

Gukesh exchanged the rooks straight away and then the bishops too left the board. Now he had the clearly winning position.

Ding's king and lonely pawn were no match to Gukesh's king and two connected pawns. A visibly shaken Ding realised that the crown was slipping away. He was crowned last year after beating Ian Nepomniachtchi in a tie-breaker, and he must have been hoping that history would repeat itself.

He had not only more experience than his younger opponent, he also has a distinctly better record in speed chess.

So it wasn't surprising to see him play for a position that could have given him a draw. But Gukesh has been playing uncompromising chess here.

He has refused virtual offers of draw, and has chosen to play on from drawish positions. And yes, he was lucky on this day.

But he has earned his luck. Surely.

Titanic battle: Gukesh, in a title-decider that went down to the wire, showed guts and gumption to emerge on top. FIDE

GAME 14: MOVES

Ding vs Gukesh

1. Nf3 d5 2. g3 c5 3. Bg2 Nc6 4. d4 e6 5. 0–0 cxd4 6. Nxd4 Nge7 7. c4 Nxd4 8. Qxd4 Nc6 9. Qd1 d4 10. e3 Bc5 11. exd4 Bxd4 12. Nc3 0–0 13. Nb5 Bb6 14. b3 a6 15. Nc3 Bd4 16. Bb2 e5 17. Qd2 Be6 18. Nd5 b5 19. cxb5 axb5 20. Nf4 exf4 21. Bxc6 Bxb2 22. Qxb2 Rb8 23. Rfd1 Qb6 24. Bf3 fxg3 25. hxg3 b4 26. a4 bxa3 27. Rxa3 g6 28. Qd4 Qb5 29. b4 Qxb4 30. Qxb4 Rxb4 31. Ra8 Rxa8 32. Bxa8 g5 33. Bd5 Bf5 34. Rc1 Kg7 35. Rc7 Bg6 36. Rc4 Rb1+ 37. Kg2 Re1 38. Rb4 h5 39. Ra4 Re5 40. Bf3 Kh6 41. Kg1 Re6 42. Rc4 g4 43. Bd5 Rd6 44. Bb7 Kg5 45. f3 f5 46. fxg4 hxg4 47. Rb4 Bf7 48. Kf2 Rd2+ 49. Kg1 Kf6 50. Rb6+ Kg5 51. Rb4 Be6 52. Ra4 Rb2 53. Ba8 Kf6 54. Rf4 Ke5 55. Rf2

55...Rxf2 56. Kxf2 Bd5 57. Bxd5 Kxd5 58. Ke3 Ke5

White resigned

Gukesh realises dream of bringing the World crown back to India

P.K. Ajith Kumar
SINGAPORE

Even the wildest of schoolboy dreams come true, sometimes.

D. Gukesh was seven when he saw Magnus Carlsen dethrone Viswanathan Anand in the 2013 World chess championship. And it happened in Chennai, home-town to both Anand and Gukesh.

The little boy felt: "I wanted to bring the World championship back to India. And I wanted to be that one."

Destiny agreed with him.

He became the world's youngest ever chess champion after beating the defending champion Ding Liren in the fourteenth game here on Thursday.

"When I was watching the match in 2013, I was in the stands and I was looking inside the glass box," a beaming Gukesh said at a press conference shortly after his triumph. "I thought it would be so cool to be inside one day.

Top of the world: Gukesh emulated the legendary Anand by winning the coveted title. PTI

"When Magnus won I felt I really wanted to be the one to bring the title back to India. I had this more than ten years ago, it has been the single most important thing in my life so far.

"Doing this for myself, for my loved ones and my country, there is probably nothing better."

Now Anand is his mentor. The WestBridge Anand Chess Academy has played a major role in Gukesh's career. Gukesh expressed his gratitude also to the team of seconds - besides Grzegorz Gajewski, that is -- which he finally revealed. He had done a pretty good job of keeping it secret.

He thanked Radoslaw Wojtaszek, P. Harikrishna, Vincent Keymer, Jan-Krzysztof Duda, Jan Klimkowski and Paddy Upton, the mental conditioning coach, who was here to witness his success. As was Gajewski.

Gukesh once again showed his class and maturity by paying a tribute to his opponent Ding. "Ding Liren is a real inspiration to me," "What I learned from Ding is what an incredible fighter he is - true champions fight until the very end. He's one of the greatest champions in history, and despite his struggles and not being physically fit, he's fought like a true champion. "

About his costly mistake, Ding said, "I was totally in shock when I realised I made a blunder."

Gukesh said he didn't realise that initially. "When I realised that I was winning it was the best moment of my life."

World title — just reward for Gukesh's perseverance

On Thursday, I watched a boy – and yes, I can call him that because he was not even born when I first won the World title in 2000 – win the World Championship. D. Gukesh, just 18, is now the 18th World champion and if the future of chess had a face, it would probably look a lot like his – calm, sharp, and self-assured.

His win in the 14th round caught me by surprise – mostly because of its suddenness.

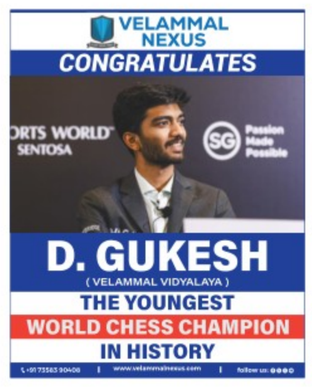
I think everyone was expecting the final round to end in a draw. The position was not yet lost, and then suddenly, Ding Liren blundered, and boom – the match was over. It all unfolded unexpectedly, but Gukesh was rewarded for his perseverance, for his decision to keep trying and chess rewarded him for that.

Gukesh showed throughout the match that he was willing to stick to his plan, try interesting ideas every day, and always look for a fight – even when faced with setbacks. He stayed true to his guns from start to finish, and I liked his approach. He pushed, pushed, and kept pushing, refusing to back down.

Full credit goes to him and his entire team. I'm also very happy that we were able to support him through the Westbridge Anand Chess Academy.

He took the plan forward, overcame challenges, and made it work.

Ding, too, proved himself to be a great champion. However, today, it felt like he somehow wanted the match to end.



He appeared hasty to finish things, to exchange pieces quickly, and he got punished for that.

However, throughout the 14-game finale, Ding showed tremendous preparation and class. His win in Game 12 was especially impressive, showcasing his mental and physical readiness to peak at the right moment. In the end, though, Gukesh had that extra edge – perhaps just enough luck to tip the scales in his favour.

Watching Gukesh's emotional outburst after his victory was heart-warming. We all have our unique ways of celebrating such moments, and I'm sure I did something similar in my own time. It was lovely to see his joy so openly expressed.

As for those questioning the credibility of this World Championship, it is something that Gukesh will need to get used to. Once you get to where he has reached, you can't expect just one-way traffic. There would be constant scrutiny.

But the fact remains – he is the youngest World Champion in history, and that is a monumental achievement. He should now try to enjoy his chess as much as possible. He's got so much of his life ahead of him, he should enjoy it all the way.

Historic and exemplary!

Congratulations! It's a proud moment for chess, a proud moment for India, a proud moment for WACA, and for me, a very personal moment of pride. Ding played a very exciting match and showed the champion he is
VISWANATHAN ANAND

Heartiest congratulations to Gukesh for becoming the youngest to win the World Chess Championship. His victory stamps the authority of India as a chess powerhouse. On behalf of every Indian, I wish you sustained glory
PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU

Historic and exemplary! Congratulations to Gukesh on his remarkable accomplishment. This is the result of his unparalleled talent, hard work and unwavering determination. My best wishes for his future endeavours
PM NARENDRA MODI

In a game of 64 squares, you've opened a world of endless possibilities. Congratulations on becoming the 18th World Champion at just 18! Following in Vishy's footsteps, you're now guiding the next wave of Indian chess prodigies
SACHIN TENDULKAR

Congratulations to Gukesh on becoming the youngest-ever World Chess Champion! Your remarkable achievement continues India's rich chess legacy and helps Chennai reaffirm its place as the global Chess Capital
M.K. STALIN, TAMIL NADU CM

My heartfelt congratulations to our very own Grandmaster. His success not only makes our country proud but also shines a spotlight on Tamil Nadu. It's truly inspiring to witness such extraordinary talent at such a young age
UDHAYANIDHI STALIN, TAMIL NADU DEPUTY CM

Congratulations Gukesh! Your brilliance, determination, and grace under pressure have made the entire nation proud. You've not just won a title but inspired a generation. Wishing you even greater success ahead
ABHINAV BINDRA

Huge congrats to Gukesh and all of India and Indians everywhere. What a stellar accomplishment! @vishy64theking (Viswanathan Anand) I had forgotten to wish you a Happy Birthday but I have a feeling your feet won't be touching the ground for a month. What you have done is without precedent
GM HIKARU NAKAMURA

Gukesh displayed an incredible level of fighting spirit, nerves of steel, outstanding mental toughness, insane level of self confidence... all qualities of a champion. He is nowhere near his peak yet and will only get better!
GM SUSAN POLGAR

I never imagined I'd be so elated to see someone crying. Gukesh's tears after winning say it all – dedication, sacrifice, and a dream fulfilled. Congrats to the World Champion and his team! An inspiration
GM SURYA SEKHAR GANGULY

A historic moment for Indian chess! Stepping the game up in high pressure moments! Gukesh, Truly Inspiring! Huge respect to Ding Liren for giving it all
GM R. PRAGGNANANDHAA

The most beautiful moment I have witnessed in chess. The youngest World Champion Gukesh deserves it all
GM D. HARIKA

After the World title, the aim is now to dominate the sport: Gukesh's mentor

Vishnu Prasanna hails triumph, says chess is going to be huge in India; R.B. Ramesh congratulates the champion, appreciates fight put up by Ding

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
CHENNAI

Gukesh's mentor and former coach, GM Vishnu Prasanna, said he was indescribably happy that his ward has achieved their primary goal at just eighteen years of age!

Speaking over phone on Thursday after Gukesh won the World title, he said: "Incredible! I mean I was not expecting the match to end this way. I'm just very happy! Can't even describe it!"

He had actually taken his eyes off the last game, when his excited wife alerted him of Gukesh's imminent win.

"My wife was more excited and she was jumping! She was the one who told me. I had stopped watching the game. She was like, 'The (evaluation) bar is moving,' and so on."

Talking about the match in general, he said: "The games where Gukesh refused a draw and just kept playing, those were what showed a lot of character. I think it was a very difficult match. There was no way to say which way it would go.

Moment etched in history: Gukesh dethrones Ding and realises his dream of becoming a World champion. FIDE

"I thought tie-breaks were even, actually. Because, he (Gukesh) is also training in shorter formats and so on. He could always surprise people. I mean 60-40 or whatever the numbers (odds) were, these don't matter in a match.

"It's all about nerves and energy and stuff like that. It's not so easily measurable. I thought he was becoming stronger in rapid and blitz games."

Speaking about the road ahead for them, now that the primary goal has been achieved, Prasanna said: "To dominate the sport, is the aim now. To become the No. 1 in the ratings, for sure. Even though he's won the match, I would not say he has shown so much difference between him and Ding or so many other players. To show that difference like Magnus (Carlsen), is a goal."

Asked what Gukesh's win meant for Indian chess, he said: "It (chess) is going to be a huge sport in India, I hope. I'm sure the title will stay in India for a while.

"Hopefully, with Gukesh, but you will see a lot of Indians winning a lot of things. So, I'm sure that more people would be engaged with the sport and there will be more heroes in chess."

R.B. Ramesh, who had favoured Gukesh and predicted that the match wouldn't last the entire set of games, had a word of praise for Ding.

Psychological demons

"It was nice to see that Ding managed to overcome his psychological demons. He put up a very good fight, and only to see that everything crumbled in just one move!

"Full appreciation for Ding as well for a great fight despite his psychological condition".

Gukesh showed his amazing skills: Humpy

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

Gukesh's father hugs the king. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Former World rapid chess champion Koneru Humpy said what separated D. Gukesh, the newly-crowned World men's chess champion, from his Chinese opponent Ding Liren in the World championship final was the confidence level.

"Honestly, I expected Gukesh to win more convincingly. But, again I am mighty impressed with his confidence levels. He believed in himself and that was the big difference eventually.

"Even from seemingly bad positions he could fight back remarkably while Ding struggled to do so," Humpy told *The Hindu*.

"The way Gukesh came back strongly after losing the first game was a reminder of his amazing skills and the ability to hit back.

"I think today's game was all about nervous breakdown. It was a basic end-game which anyone could have drawn but somehow Ding struggled and blundered," Humpy said.

"Gukesh setting the record to be the youngest world champion is something really special for the entire chess fraternity of India," she said.

GM D. Harika, also a member of the gold-medal winning Olympiad women's team, said to see the final moments was really beautiful and should be etched in memory forever.

"I believe this magnificent triumph by Gukesh changes the face of Indian chess even more. This will have a much bigger and better impact on the sport in India," Harika said.

"Once he reached the World championship finals, it was only a question of time before he won the title," she said.

"I know Gukesh's father and the kind of effort and hard work, sacrifices they made to see him reach this level. Really feel happy for them," Harika said.

Gukesh's 14 milestone journey to the summit

Rewind time: Snapshots of the World Championship match between Gukesh and Ding from Game 1 to 14. The Indian had lost the first before battling back to dethrone the Chinese. FIDE

Team India sweats it out in the lead-up to the Brisbane Test; batters train in top gear

INDIA IN AUS

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
BRISBANE

Flecks of bright yellow, chocolate brown and mild blue were the colour tones of the spectator chairs in the stands, and out in the middle, it was a green expanse with the pitch too adding its bit with a lighter shade. The Gabba bathed in sunlight is a pretty sight and it was here in January, 2021, that Rishabh Pant (89 n.o.) anchored a stunning chase as India defeated Australia and retained the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2-1.

Pant, Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill, Mohammed Siraj and Washington Sundar, part of the current squad, played that game together, while the then coach, Ravi Shastri, is back Down Under as a commentator and columnist. Obviously, there was hope in the air when Rohit 's men got into a huddle under deep blue skies here on Thursday morning.

Taking aim: India will look up to Kohli the batter at the Gabba. GETTY IMAGES

Coach Gautam Gambhir spoke briefly and then an animated Virat Kohli held centre-stage. Perhaps it was a call to arms, maybe a stress on the 'we', or an emphasis on brotherly solidarity as he tapped the players on either side and pointed to those standing diagonally opposite. Once Kohli's extempore speech concluded, the players dived into their fielding drills.

There were throws at the stumps, Kohli was sharp here; catches for the slip-cordon; and the swirling hits to the deep as fielders looked up and waited for the ball to descend. And once K.L. Rahul dragged his kitbag to the nets arena, it was a clue for others to follow suit.

Batters at work

Rahul, Gill, Kohli, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rohit, Pant and Washington, were all part of the initial set of batters, fine-tuning their craft. As Kohli buckled down with his bat, he saw Rohit waiting in the sidelines and then the two took turns to bat for a while. A lot would hinge on these two senior batters, especially with the third Test scheduled to commence here on Saturday.

Sourav Ganguly's 144 here in 2003 was the classic skipper's knock and it set the tone for India in that series. Ideally, Rohit too should reclaim his mojo and dish out a special innings. While the batters sweated, Jasprit Bumrah played the statesman, often chatting with his fellow pacers, cracking the odd wisecrack and when it was time, he landed thunderbolts and tested his batting colleagues.

As shots were played and leaves outside the off-stump finessed, a few edges and some awkward reactions were on view too. Maybe the bowlers were asked to be at full tilt and some of them were guilty of overstepping. No-balls in nets might flare up as a bad habit in Tests and in the current series, India has added 22 to the extras component. Level at 1-1, every vulnerability may get exacerbated over the next few weeks.

Meanwhile, chief selector Ajit Agarkar held a ball, rubbed some sweat on it, felt the seam and juggled a bit. Perhaps it was muscle-memory at work for the former pacer. Hopefully, India too would glean some optimism from the past, specifically the 2021 outing.

We are focusing on this week, not the past: Marsh

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
BRISBANE

Look ahead, was the hint that Mitchell Marsh offered while talking to the media at the Gabba here on Thursday afternoon. Asked about India's victory here in the 2021 Test, the all-rounder was quick to react: "The biggest thing for us is about just focusing on this week and not what's happened in the past. The way we bounced back after Perth was an example of that. We are focussed on playing our style and hopefully going 2-1 up in the series."

Our style: Marsh says the Aussies will play it their way in the Brisbane challenge. AP

Asked about countering Jasprit Bumrah, Marsh said: "He is probably the best bowler in the world. It is just about getting up for that challenge, it is a big series. You want to take on the best in the world. That is certainly my mentality."

Reminded about his dismissal to R. Ashwin at Adelaide in which the replays made it obvious that there was no edge, an embarrassed Marsh admitted: "I thought I hit it and so I walked off. When I got to the change-rooms, they asked if I hit it and I said 'yeah I smashed it'. And then the replay came up and my head went into the hands and a minute later everyone else was laughing at me."

About his bowling, Marsh replied: "I haven't had to bowl too much so far but my body is feeling really good. I had a sore back. But right now it's feeling as good as it has ever felt."

Marsh also backed Steve Smith, Usman Khawaja and Josh Hazlewood. "Josh will do everything he can to get up for this game," he said, adding that Smith is one of 'Australia's best' while Khawaja is a 'local hero'.

KARNATAKA SKILL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

(Govt. of Karnataka undertaking)
"Kaushalya Bhavan" 3rd Floor, Near Dairy Circle, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560029,
Phone: 080-29522222 E-mail: skilldev.2017@gmail.com

No.KSDC/CMKKY/KJK/CR-147/2024-25 Date: 12.12.2024

Expression of Interest (EOI)

KSDC invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from eligible and interested applicants / industries to impart training in advanced courses for "Kalike Jothege Kaushalya 2.0" programme under the CMKKY scheme for the financial year 2024- 25 in the state of Karnataka. Last date for submission of proposal is 20.12.2024 at 16.00 Hrs. Interested and eligible applicants may submit their proposals to the Managing Director, Karnataka Skill Development Corporation, 3rd Floor, Kaushalya Bhavan, Near Dairy Circle, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore-560029. For details or clarification visit www.kaushalkar.com or email at eoi_rfp@kaushalkar.com

Sd/- Executive Director-2
KSDC

DIPR/CP/3746/AKAR/2024-25

TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, BIDADI

Bidadi Main Road, Bidadi Town, Ramanagara Taluk & District - 562109
www.bidaditown.mrc.gov.in
Email : ltstaff_ulb_bidadi@yahoo.com tmcbidadi@gmail.com

No : TMC/Bidadi/Eng. S./Tender/C.R.-16/2024-25 Date : 02-12-2024

INVITATION FOR TENDERS

(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

The Chief officer Town Municipal Council, Bidadi invites **Item Rate** Tenders for NINE (09) works Total Estimated cost Rs.221.99 Lakhs and Minimum Cost Rs. 4.75 lakhs and Maximum Cost Rs. 50.00 lakhs from the Class-III & above PWD Contractors can participate in this tender. For more information about the tender please refer **Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Tender forms can be uploaded by dated:02.12.2024 and the Last date receipt of tender is on 17.12.2024 till 5:30 PM and tender will be Opened on the date:18.12.2024 at 11:00 AM for further details you can visit **www.bidaditown.mrc.gov.in** any changes in this notification will be notified only in KPPP Portal.

Sd/- CHIEF OFFICER TMC, BIDADI **Sd/- PRESIDENT TMC, BIDADI**

KARNATAKA STATE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.

Karnataka One State, Many worlds

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office: Ground Floor, B.M.T.C- T.T.M.C Bus Stand, Yeshwanthpur Circle, Bengaluru-560 022.
Ph.: 080-43344334 Fax: 080-43344376 Website: www.kstdc.co
No.KSTDC/PROC/27/2020-21/2024-25/2015 Date: 10.12.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation Limited, Bengaluru invites tender from interested bidders for Supply of Packaged Drinking Water Bottle to KSTDC Hotel Units. Tender details are as follows:

Tender No: KSTDC/2024-25/SE00. **Description:** Tender for Supply of Packaged Drinking Water Bottle to KSTDC Hotel Units. **Last Date & Time for Bid Submission: 26.12.2024 at 16.00PM.**

The detailed tender documents are available in the website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For any further clarifications contact +91 80 23010900/01. Email support: hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com

Sd/- General Manager (Admin), KSTDC.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA (PUBLIC WORKS, DEPT.)

No. PWD/BGM/TND/TA/AE/2024-25/5348 Date:12.12.2024

-ITEM RATETENDER NOTIFICATION(KPPP-PROCUREMENT):-

The Executive Engineer, PWD Belagavi Division Belagavi invites item ratetenders from the eligible contractors registered in KPP Portal in Public Works Department under KW-1 & 3 Standard tender documents for a work under 4059 Court Buildings Constructions, 3054 MDR Bridge Maintenance (Flood), and 3054 SH Maintenance. total 03 number of works with minimum and maximum tender amounts of Rs.7.96 Lakhs and Rs.65.03 Lakhs respectively and minimum and maximum EMD amount of Rs. 20,000/- and Rs. 1,30,100/- Part-1:Tender receipt Date is on 21-12-2024 upto 4.30 PM , Technical Bid Opening Date is on 23-12-2024 after 4.45 PM Financial Bid Opening Date is on 24-12-2024 at 11.00 AM, Part-2: Tender receipt Date is on 30-12-2024 up to 4.30 PM and Technical Bid Opening Date is on 31-12-2024 after 4.45 PM and Financial Bid Opening Date is on 01-01-2025 at 11.00 AM, For more information contact the office of the undersigned and www.Kppp.karnataka.gov.in after 23-10-2024.(Note:1) If no bids received, 3 days One Time auto extension activated.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Public Works Department, Belagavi Dn. Belagavi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1294/KSMCA/2024-25

BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION

Central Offices: K.H. Road, Shantinagar, Bengaluru-560 027.
No: BMTC/CO/COSP/TENDER/11/2024-25 Date: 10.12.2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

BMTC Invites Tender for Procurement of the following Goods & Services through KPP portal:

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Description	Tender Value (approx) Rs. in Crores	Last date for bid submission in KPP portal
		Regular Tender		
1	BMTC/2024-25/ IND0140	Procurement of Automotive Bulbs	0.17	31.12.2024
2	BMTC/2024-25/ IND0141	Procurement of Metal Paste, Petroleum Jelly & Araldite	0.32	31.12.2024
3	BMTC/2024-25/ IND0142	Procurement of Photocopier Paper A4 Size 80GSM	0.30	31.12.2024
4	BMTC/2024-25/ IND0143	Procurement of Cotton Waste and Banian Waste	0.34	31.12.2024
5	BMTC/2024-25/ IND0144	Procurement of Expandable Vinyl Coated fabric & Volvo Seat Fabric	1.90	13.01.2025
6	BMTC/2024-25/ IND0145	Procurement of ERW GI Square Tubes and Round Pipes	0.46	02.01.2025
7	BMTC/2024-25/ IND0146	Procurement of Tie Rod, Drag Link Repair Kit	0.72	02.01.2025
8	BMTC/2024-25/ IND0147	Procurement of Desktop Computers	0.34	02.01.2025
9	BMTC/2024-25/ IND0148	Procurement of Thin Wall Bearing	0.28	02.01.2025
10	BMTC/2024-25/ IND0149	Procurement of Rubber Glazing of Different Sizes	0.09	02.01.2025
11	BMTC/2024-25/ IND0150	Procurement of Piston Assembly & Ring Sets	0.89	02.01.2025
12	BMTC/2024-25/ IND0151	Procurement of Fan Belts	0.17	02.01.2025
13	BMTC/2024-25/ IND0152	Procurement of Wiper Motor, Arms, Blades.	0.90	02.01.2025
Corrigendum: The last date & time for submission of tender in KPP-portal is extended as under.				
1	BMTC/2024-25/ IND0128	Procurement of Wheel Bolts & Nuts.	0.30	02.01.2025
2	BMTC/2024-25/ IND0116	Procurement of Different Capacities of Fire Extinguishers, Fire Buckets & Fire Stands Etc.	0.30	02.01.2025

Further any addendum/corrigendum in respect of change in calendar of events, specification, other tender terms and conditions etc. will be uploaded/published through kpp-portal only.

Note: Interested Suppliers need to register in the e-procurement portal. For further information log in to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** in case of further assistance, contact e-procurement cell phone No:080-22230960, 080-22234115. Interested suppliers may also contact e-procurement for training on bid submission. Mail to support@eprochelppdesk.com for further information required.

Sd/- CONTROLLER OF STORES AND PURCHASES (Tender Inviting Authority)

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH SAMAGRA SHIKSHA, AMARAVATI.

Tenders are invited through e-procurement platform for supply of Student Kit items under **"Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Vidyarthi Mitra"** (SRKVM-1) vide Tender Notice NIT No. 01 to 27/2024-25, dt.12/12/2024 in Samagra Shiksha, Amaravati at Patamata, Vijayawada for 27 unit works in the state of Andhra Pradesh.
Tenders Downloading Starts from : **16.12.2024 after 10.30AM**
Last date for receipt of Tenders : **30.12.2024 up to 05.00 PM**
Note: Further details can be viewed at **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in or contact 0866 2428599.**

Sd/- B.Srinivasa Rao,I.A.S.,
DIPR No: 3384PP/CL, Dt:12/12/2024 **State Project Director, Samagra Shiksha, Andhra Pradesh.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HERE BY GIVEN THAT the land owners as mentioned under with have represented that they are the owners of the properties to the extent as mentioned it is brought to the Notice of the General Public that my client has negotiated and agreed to purchase the schedule properties from the said landowners. All person/ persons claiming or having any claim against or to the schedule properties or any part thereof by way of inheritance, Mortgage, Sale, Conveyance, MOU, agreement to Sell, transfer, lease deed, tenancy, license, lean, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, exchange, possession, adverse possession or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to submit the same in writing along with documentary proof to the under singed within 7 days from the date of publication hereof failing which my client shall proceed to register the sale deeds without any reference to such claim and the same, if any will be considered as waived.

Village - Bommavara Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.

Sl No	Name of Land Owners	Sy No.	Extent
1	Venugopal Bin Appayanna Urf Munishamappa	138/6	00 Acre 32 Guntas
2	1) A Rajanna, 2) Veeregowda, 3) Veenugopal, all are Bin Munishamappa Urf Appayanna (Jointly)	138/7	00 Acre 35 Guntas
3	D Manjunath Bin Devraju	138/8	01 Acre 04 Guntas
4	Sobha Bin Krishnappa	138/16	00 Acre 10 Guntas (excluding 03.04 Guntas B-Karab) totally 00 Acre 13.04 Guntas
5	Veeregowda Bin Appayanna Urf Munishamappa	138/21	00 Acre 32 Guntas
6	Nagaveeni W/o late Rajanna	138/22	00 Acre 32 Guntas
7	Anandamma Bin Krishnappa	138/23	00 Acre 19 Guntas (excluding 00.04 Guntas B-Karab) totally 00 Acre 19.04 Guntas
8	S Munegowda Bin late Koti shamanna	138/28	00 Acre 19 Guntas
9	1) Sudha-Krishnappa, 2) Ambuja-Krishnappa & 3) Geetha-Krishnappa (Jointly)_	138/32	00 Acre 04 Guntas
10	Shreekanth BK Bin K.N Basavraj	138/33	00 Acre 20 Guntas
11	Sudha D/o late Krishnappa	138/38	00 Acre 03 Guntas
12	Murthy K Bin Krishnappa	138/39	00 Acre 23 Guntas

Bangalore
Date: 11/12/2024

H S HAYATH KHAN B.COM., LL.B., Advocate
No.106/39, 41st Cross, East End C Main Road, 9th Block Jayanagar, Bangalore – 560069, e-mail hshkadvocate@gmail.com

City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru

Office : 08262- 230420 Fax: 0862232272 Commissioner : 08262-232272 Helpline: 08262-232222
E-Mail ID: comm_ckg@yahoo.co.in Website : www.chickmagalurcity.gov.in
No: CMC/CKM/DMA/WDM/CR/01/2024-25 Date: 09-12-2024

e-Procurement Tender Notice

e-procurement has been invited in two – cover system through E-Procurement process (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from authorized vendors/suppliers to supply the following water supply materials. Interested parties may submit tenders subject to the conditions.

Sl.No.(1) Tender details : DMA/2024-25/IND4054 **Approximate Amount :** Rs 90.10 Lakhs **EMD Rs** : Rs 1,53.000/-

Tender form price : as per e-procurement Period : 1 year

1. Last date for submission of tenders on e-procurement portal Date & Time : 24.12.2024 up to 17.30 hours **2.** Date of opening of technical bid: 26.12.2024 at 11.00 hrs. **3**. Date of opening of financial bid: 27.12.2024 at 11.00 hrs.

Further details contact this office during the working hours or visit e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in If any changes in the tender, it will be published on e-portal only and will not be published in dailies/ Newspapers.

Sd/- (B.C. Sujatha Shivakumar) President, City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru.
Sd/- (Anu Madhukar Vice President, City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru.
Sd/- (B.C. Basavaraju, K.M.A.S.)
Municipal Commissioner, City Municipal Council, Chikkamagaluru.

DIPR/ckm/No.127/ksmca/24-25/1208

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

Office of the Executive Engineer, Pulikeshinagar Division, BBMP Office Building, Robertson Road, Frazer Town, Bengaluru.
No. EE/PN/TEND/09/2024-25 Date: 12.12.2024

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

(Two Cover System) Through GOK KPP Portal only
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

The Executive Engineer, (Pulikeshinagar Division, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Constractors registered in equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/ Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Government Organisation for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of Work
	For General Category
1.	Improvements to BBMP Burial Ground in Pulikeshinagar Constituency. **Approx. Value of Work (₹. in Lakhs): 40.00. EMD (in ₹.): 80,000/-.**
2.	Improvements to CC Road in Kuppon Street and Surrounding Area in Ward No.73 (Old Ward No.61) S.K. Garden (Block NO.57). **Approx. Value of Work (₹. in Lakhs): 12.68. EMD (in ₹.): 31,700/-.**
3.	Removal of Silt, debris and Ward Maintenance Works in Ward No.69, Kavalbyrasandra for the year 2024-25. **Approx. Value of Work (₹. in Lakhs): 30.00. EMD (in ₹.): 60,000/-.**
4.	Removal of Silt, debris and Ward Maintenance Works in Ward No.71, Muneshwara Nagara for the year 2024-25. **Approx. Value of Work (₹. in Lakhs): 30.00. EMD (in ₹.): 60,000/-.**
5.	Removal of Silt, debris and Ward Maintenance Works in Ward No.72, Devara Jeevanahalli for the year 2024-25. **Approx. Value of Work (₹. in Lakhs): 30.00. EMD (in ₹.): 60,000/-.**
6.	Removal of Silt, debris and Ward Maintenance Works in Ward No.73, SK Garden for the year 2024-25. **Approx. Value of Work (₹. in Lakhs): 30.00. EMD (in ₹.): 60,000/-.**
7.	Improvements of Road and Drains at Toll Mandi in Ward No.71 (48) Muneshwaranagar for the year 2024-25 (Block No.44) (2nd Call). **Approx. Value of Work (₹. in Lakhs): 19.00. EMD (in ₹.): 47,500/-.**
8.	Construction of New Multi Purpose Building 11th Cross, New Bagalur Layout in Ward No.74, Sagayapuram for the year 2024-25 (Block No.12-2). **Approx. Value of Work (₹. in Lakhs): 20.00. EMD (in ₹.): 50,000/-.**
9.	Construction of Anganawadi Building in P.K. Colony in Ward No.74, Sagayapuram for the year 2024-25 (Block No.12-2). **Approx. Value of Work (₹. in Lakhs): 20.00. EMD (in ₹.): 50,000/-.**
10.	Repairs & Maintenance of Footpath in Old Ward No.47, New Ward No.72, D.J. Halli (3rd Call). **Approx. Value of Work (₹. in Lakhs): 25.00. EMD (in ₹.): 50,000/-.**
	For SC Category
11.	Removal of Silt, debris and Ward Maintenance works in Ward No.70, Kushal Nagara for the year 2024-25. **Approx. Value of Work (₹. in Lakhs): 30.00. EMD (in ₹.): 30,000/-.**
12.	Removal of Silt, debris and Ward Maintenance works in Ward No.74, Sagayapuram for the year 2024-25. **Approx. Value of Work (₹. in Lakhs): 30.00. EMD (in ₹.): 30,000/-.**
13.	Construction of Anganawadi and Tailoring Building in Pillanna Garden in Ward No.74, Sagayapuram for the year 2024-25 (Block No.18). **Approx. Value of Work (₹. in Lakhs): 30.00. EMD (in ₹.): 30,000/-.**
14.	Improvement to Road and Drains at Cross Roads of Modi Road in Ward No.73, S. K. Garden for the Year 2024-25. **Approx. Value of Work (₹. in Lakhs): 15.00. EMD (in ₹.): 18,750/-.**
	For ST Category
15.	Removal of Silt, debris and Ward Maintenance works in Ward No.75, Pulikeshinagara for the year 2024-25. **Approx. Value of Work (₹. in Lakhs): 30.00. EMD (in ₹.): 30,000/-.**
16.	Filling up Pot Holes in Ward No.69, Kavabyrasandra for the Year 2024-25 (2nd Call). **Approx. Value of Work (₹. in Lakhs): 15.00. EMD (in ₹.): 18,750/-.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP Portal from **19.12.2024 at 4:00 p.m. (2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **21.12.2024 at 4:00 p.m. (3)** Tenders must be submitted online through Kpp Portal on or **before 4:00 p.m. on 30.12.2024. (4)** Technical Bids will be opened on **31.12.2024 at 4:30 p.m.** if possible or next working day.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Pulikeshinagar Division, BBMP.

BANGALORE MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY

No.5, 2nd Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No:BMICAPA/CLU-01/78/2022-23/1340 Date: 12.12.2024

PUBLICATION

[UNDER SEC 14(A) OF K.T.C.P ACT, 1961]

M/s Rajshekhar Developer Private limited Represented by its Managing Director Sri M.Rajashekaraiah has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Agriculture"** Zone to **"Residential"** purpose pertaining to Sy.No:69/3 extent of 00Acre-28¼ Guntas of Chinnakurchi Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The fore said land is reserved for **Agriculture zone** in approved Master plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;

1. By developing the layout in the above said lands the poor and middle Class people will get the sites for reasonable price.
2. During the development works of the layout there will be opportunity of employment for labourers.
3. Surrounding areas will be developed by developing the Layout in the above said lands.
4. By planned layout, the public are benefited with the civic amenities such as good roads, parks etc.

Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/- Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/3751/MAA/24-25

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-3, 1st Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052.

No. DGM-3/BSWML/Tend/07/24-25 Date: 12.12.2024

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

(Through GOK KPPP Only)

The Deputy General Manager-3, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru from eligible tenderers for the Project Management Consultancy works. The tenderers may submit tenders for works through KPPP portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified as per KC-6 standard tender document. Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka. Other details can be seen in the tender documents. Qualification documents along with necessary information/ documents must be uploaded to the KPP portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in as per tender document on or before 16:00 hours on 26-12-2024 and First Folder containing the Technical bid will be opened through e-portal only on 27-12-2024 after 16:30 hours at the stipulated venue, in the presence of the Tenderers or their authorized representatives who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the tenders as specified, the tenders will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue. Any corrigendum/addendum will be published in the KPP Portal only.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-3
BSWML

DIPR/CP/3745/AKAR/2024-25

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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA E-Mail-sencrwangul@yahoo.co.in Ph.:06764-236404

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, ANGUL

No. 2991// Dt. 11/12/24 //

1st Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. Road Online-AGL-14/2024-25

Due to some unavoidable circumstances the last date of Online for bidding and'opening of the date has been modified as follows in respect of the tender for Road works invited vide Tender Call Notice Bid Identification No.Road Online-AGL-14/2024-25 by the Procurement officer Chief Engineer, Rural Works Circle,Angul.

Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Date & Time of Opening
From	To	Technical Bid
1	2	3
02.12.2024 at 10.00 A.M.	30.12.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.	31.12.2024 At 11.00 A.M.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Chief Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul.

O-859 : OIPR-25180/11/0023/2425

MAHANAGARA PALIKE, KALABURAGI

Ph.: 08472/ 278675, Fax : 08472 / 260776 E-mailitstaff_ulb_gulbarga@yahoo.com

No: KMP/EE/TS-02/ 15th FC/NMPC/2024-25 Date: 10.12.2024

KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi invites 7 tenders as per KPPP Portal 2.0 act, 1999 and Rules, 2000 through KPPP Portal in KW- 1,2&3 KG2 Tender bid documents under 15th Finance for the year 2024-25, 15th Finance 2020-22 to 2022-23 & 15th FC Under the Grant of Million Plus Challenge Fund to Non -Milion Plus City (Allocation for the year 2023-24 **Rs. 963.00 Lakhs)** Commission scheme. The bid documents can be downloaded from KPPP Portal website and any information related to these tenders will be updated on www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in, 2) Estimate Sanction cost: **lowest amount Rs. 10.00 lakhs & Highest amount Rs. 51.00 lakhs,** 3) EMD Value: Lowest Rs. 21,000.00 & Highest Rs. 55,800.00, 4) Pre Bid Meeting date: 20.12.2024 upto 11-00 am, 5) Last date of Bid Submission: 20.12.2024 upto 4-30 pm. 6) Technical Bid Opening date: 21.12.2024 upto 4-35 pm, 7) Financial Bid Opening date: 23.12.2024 after 11:30 am, 8) Office Address : Executive Engineer, Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi, 9) For more details visit Office Website http://www.kalaburagicity.mrc.gov.in/

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
DIPR/Kalaburagi/714/KSMC&A/2024-25 **Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi.**

Government of Karnataka
NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION

Office of the District Health and family Welfare office, Koppal
District Health & Family Welfare Society Office, D.C Office Premises, KOPPAL
OFFICE Phone: 08539-200119. E-Mail : dhokoppal@gmail.com.dsukpl@yahoo.co.in

Ref: DHFWS/KPL/NQAS/EUP/15TH/ST/NHM/2024-25/510 Dated: 12/12/2024

SHORT TERM TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENTS FOR 35 PHCs AND 3 UPHCs UNDER 15 TH FC DIAGNOSITC FOR KOPPAL DISTRICT

The District Health and family welfare office Koppal invites proposal in two cover system for supply of DIAGNOSTIC EQUIPMENTS FOR 35 PHCs AND 3 UPHCs UNDER 15 TH FC DIAGNOSITC FOR KOPPAL DISTRICT (INDENT NO: DHFWS/2024-25/IND0715/CALL-2) under Koppal Dist the period 2024-25, through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) as per the provisions of the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act & Rules 2000. Prospective suppliers willing to participate in this tender shall necessarily register themselves with above mentioned e procurement portal.

1.Tender Reference No and date Dt**: 13/12/2024 11:00 AM.** 2.Last date & Time for submission of Queries Dt: **20/12/2024 17.00 Hrs.** 3.Last date & Time for submission of Tender Dt: **21/12/2024 17.00 Hrs.** 4.Date & Time of opening of the technical bid Dt: **23/12/2024 11.00 Hrs.** 5.Tentative Date & Time of opening of Financial bid Dt: **24/12/2024 11.00 Hrs.** 6.Tender Processing Fee **As per KPPP Portal.** 7.Estimate Cost **Rs.11328700/-.** 8.EMD Amount **Variable EMD as per Annexure 1** . 9.Address for communication **Office of the District Health and Family, 1st Floor DC Office Premises, Koppal-583231**

Prospective Service Providers willing to participate in this tender can down load the bid documents with visiting the web site http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- District Health and Family Welfare Officer, Koppal

DIPR/Koppal/598/KSMCA/2024-25

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಬಾದಾಮಿ

ಬನಶಂಕರಿ ರೋಡ, ಬಾದಾಮಿ – 587 201. ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 220142, 220042,
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ : apmcbadami22@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ.(ಬ)/ಅಭಿಕೆ/1001/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 12–12–2024

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2024–25 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಳಗೇರಿ ಉಪ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹೆಸರು	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ. ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ (ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಪ್ರಿ ಬಿಡ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ಸಮಯ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ಸಮಯ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	
					ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್	ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್
01	Supplying, Installing, Testing, Commissioning, Stamping as per Technical Specification of Electronic Weigh Bridge (80 MT Capacity) including all necessary Civil (Foundation, Ramp, Control Room, Approach Road etc.,) AT SMY KULAGERI OF APMC, BADAMI.	50.34	24–12–2024 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ	30–12–2024 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ	01–01–2025 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ	10–01–2025 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ

ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಷರತ್ತು ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವಂತೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ : 13–12–2024 ರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಿಂದ ಡೌನಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಯವರಿಂದ ಅಥವಾ http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ : 080 – 2250 1216 / 2550 1227 ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ. ಸಮಿತಿ, ಬಾದಾಮಿ.
ಸಹಿ/– ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ. ಸಮಿತಿ, ಬಾದಾಮಿ.

ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ/384/ಮಾಧಾಪ್ರ/2024–25

INBRIEF

DEBASISH BHADURI

Odisha fightsback to beat 10-man East Bengal

Odisha FC recovered from a goal deficit to beat a 10-man East Bengal FC 2-1 in a match week 12 encounter of the ISL in Kolkata on Thursday.

The result: East Bengal 1 (Lalchungnunga 52) lost to Odisha FC 2 (Jerry Mawihmingthanga 54, Hugo Boumous 80).

India bows out of World squash team championships

The Indian men's and women's team lost 2-0 to France and USA respectively in the quarterfinals of World squash team in Hong Kong on Thursday.

The results: Quarterfinals: Men: Sebastien Bonmalais (Fra) bt Veer Chotrani 13-11, 11-7, 11-7; Victor Crouin (Fra) bt Abhay Singh 11-7, 11-4, 11-4. **Women:** Caroline Fouts (USA) bt Nirupama Dubey 11-1, 11-5, 11-4; Amanda Sobhy (USA) bt Anahat Singh 12-10, 11-4, 11-3.

ICC lifts ban on Sri Lanka's Niroshan Dickwella

Sri Lanka's Niroshan Dickwella, who was banned for three years due to alleged anti-doping violations, has been cleared to play across all formats, the ICC said. The 31-year-old received a three-year suspension after testing positive for prohibited substance during a random test.

Dabang Delhi gets over the line against Telugu Titans

Dabang Delhi KC clinched a 33-27 victory over Telugu Titans and moved up to second in the Pro Kabaddi League in Pune on Thursday. Despite the loss, the Titans are still in the hunt for the playoffs while Gujarat Giants was officially eliminated from the playoff race.

LIVE TELECAST

SMAT: semifinals, JioCinema, 11 a.m. & 4.30 p.m.
Zimbabwe vs Afghanistan: 2nd T20I, FanCode, 5 p.m.
ISL: Sports 18-3 & JioCinema, 7.30 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m.
South Africa vs Pakistan: 2nd T20I, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 9.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 1 a.m. (Saturday)
Serie A: gxr.world, 1.15 a.m. (Saturday)
LaLiga: gxr.world, 1.30 a.m. (Saturday)
New Zealand vs England: 3rd Test, day 1, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 3.30 a.m. (Saturday)
Australia vs India: 3rd Test, day 1, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 5.50 a.m. (Saturday)

Baroda faces Mumbai in a clash of heavyweights in the semifinals

Shreyas and Suryakumar line up against Krunal and Co.; Delhi and Madhya Pradesh to battle it out for a spot in the title clash

MUSHTAQ ALI TROPHY

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Baroda takes on Mumbai in a heavyweight Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy semifinal clash at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Friday.

Baroda's Hardik Pandya and Krunal Pandya will face a star-studded Mumbai line-up, which boasts of pure batting match-winners in Prithvi Shaw, Ajinkya Rahane, captain Shreyas Iyer and Suryakumar Yadav. In Shivam Dube and Suryansh Shegde, Mumbai also has two quality finishers.

The Baroda bowling line-up has been on song in this tournament, and is expected to test the Mumbai batters. Right-arm pacer Atit Sheth and left-arm seamer Lukman Meriwala have 13 and 12 tournaments wickets respectively, while left-arm spinner Krunal has tightened the screws with miserly spells.

Baroda will hope that the Pandya brothers come good with the bat. Mumbai Indians skipper Hardik, who has recorded two fifties, is the danger man. Krunal, however, has not been among the runs.

In the second semifinal, Delhi faces Madhya Pradesh in a battle of equals. The Delhi top-order of Priyansh Arya, Yash Dhull and captain Ayush Badoni has found form, providing the best platform for the likes of Anuj Rawat and Himmat Singh to apply the finishing touches.

Rawat found his groove on Wednesday, smacking an unbeaten 33-ball 73 to dismantle Uttar Pradesh.

Madhya Pradesh's Rajat Patidar is the batting mainstay, with three fifties at an average of 40.14. Harpreet Singh and Subhranshu Senapati can hold fort, while skipper Venkatesh Iyer contributes with bat and ball.

Rain, meanwhile, could interrupt proceedings. While the games are unlikely to be completely washed out, there could be a reduction in overs.

Semifinal line-up (at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium): Baroda vs Mumbai (11 a.m.); Delhi vs Madhya Pradesh (4.30 p.m.).

In focus: Hardik will hold the key when Baroda takes on a formidable Mumbai. PTI

Campbell. PTI

Invest in cultivating new blood: Campbell

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

Investment in grassroots to "cultivate new blood" is the development path that a country like India should adopt to see success in football, feels former England icon Sol Campbell.

"I think if India can find a good balance between getting investments and a good grassroots programme, the sport will grow," said Campbell.

"Any country looking to develop the game needs a little bit of sustainable money in there, you need the money to attract the players (to the clubs) and then have the funds to go into the grassroots to cultivate the new blood, new quality players.

"If you haven't got a system, you don't know what you've got.

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Vijay Hazare Trophy: Mayank to have Shreyas as his deputy

BENGALURU: Mayank Agarwal will have a new deputy in Shreyas Gopal as Karnataka announced its squad for the Vijay Hazare Trophy beginning December 31.

Vidwath Kaverappa, who is yet to play a game this domestic season because of a shin injury, continues to be out.

The squad:
Mayank Agarwal (Capt.), S.J. Nikin Jose, K.V. Aneesh, R. Smaran, K.L. Shrijith, Abhinav Manohar, Shreyas Gopal, Hardik Raj, V. Vyshak, V. Koushik, Vidyadhar Patil, Kishan S. Bedare, Abhilash Shetty, Manoj Bhandage, Pravin Dubey, Luvnith Sisodia.

Karnataka girls lose to Bengal

Karnataka lost to Bengal by three wickets in the quarterfinals of the BCCI U-15 girls one day trophy in Jaipur.

The scores:
Karnataka 154/8 in 35 overs (Liyanka Shetty 61, Kashvi Kandikuppa 48, Remondina Khatun 3/26) lost to Bengal 155/7 in 34.1 overs (Sandipta Patra 64).

FC Bengaluru United rallies to win against Rebels FC

FC Bengaluru United registered a come-from-behind 4-3 victory over Rebels FC in the BDFA Super Division League football here on Thursday.

The results:
Kickstart FC 1 (R. Rahul 58) bt BUFC 0; FC Bengaluru United 4 (Dhruv Sharma 3, Waikhom Rohit Meetei 72, Akshunna Tyagi 85, Rakesh Singh 90+4) bt Rebels FC 3 (Sapam Kenedy Singh 7, Rinreithan Shaiza 45+1, 77).

B-div: Md. Sporting FC 0 drew with Infinite Belagavi FC 0; Revive FC 1 (Mohammed Rayan 55) drew with South India FC 1 (Sunder Singh 35+1); Vehicles FC 7 (H. Madhavan 2, 9, Anet P. Saji 3, 42, 50, Surya Prakash 6, M. Rahul 22) bt Royals FC 2 (R. Saleem 18, 38).

Sreenidi Deccan and Chennaiyin register victories

Sreenidi Deccan FC defeated Roots FC 2-0 in the southern qualifiers of the Reliance Development League football here on Thursday.

The results:
Chennaiyin FC 1 (Akshay Kumar Subedi 9) bt Bengaluru FC 0; Sreenidi Deccan FC 2 (R. Lalbiakliana 22, Levis ZangminLun 77) bt Roots FC 0.

Garuda HC steamrollers Besant Hockey Club-B

Garuda Hockey Club thrashed Besant Hockey Club-B 13-1 in the KSHA C-division hockey league here on Thursday.

Rain washes out play

Rain played spoilsport at the KSLTA-Asian Junior (U-14) tournament at the KSLTA courts on Thursday.

The girls' singles semifinals, in which a total of 10 games were possible, will thus be played on Friday along with the boys' matches.

Juventus deepens Man City crisis

The hero: Ferran Torres scores Barcelona's winner. REUTERS

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Manchester City's crisis continued with a 2-0 defeat away to Juventus in the Champions League on Wednesday, while Pep Guardiola's old club Barcelona beat Borussia Dortmund to clinch a spot in the knockout stage of Europe's elite club competition.

Arsenal, AC Milan, Atletico Madrid, Lille, Feyenoord and Stuttgart were also victorious.

Dusan Vlahovic put Juventus ahead early in the second half when goalkeeper Ederson was unable to keep out his header.

Weston McKennie made it 2-0 with a fine acrobatic finish in the 75th minute.

The result leaves Juventus on 11 points with two games left.

Barcelona is second in the standings with 15 points, behind only Liverpool, after beating Dortmund 3-2 in a thriller in Germany, with Ferran Torres its hero. Raphinha fired Barca ahead with his 17th goal of the season, early in the second half.

Serhou Guirassy equalised with a penalty on the hour mark, but substitute Torres put Barca back in front on 75 minutes.

The results:
Atletico Madrid 3 (Alvarez 16, Griezmann 42, 57) bt Slovan Bratislava 1 (Strelec 51-pen).
Lille 3 (Sahraoui 37, Bakker 45+2, Haraldsson 81) bt Sturm Graz 2 (Kiteishvili 45+4, Biereth 47).
AC Milan 2 (Leao 42, Abraham 87) bt Red Star Belgrade 1 (Radonjic 67); Arsenal 3 (Saka 34, 78, Havertz 88) bt Monaco 0; Benfica 0 drew with Bologna 0.
Borussia Dortmund 2 (Guirassy 60-pen, 78) lost to Barcelona 3 (Raphinha 53, Torres 75, 85); Feyenoord 4 (Trauner 8, Paixao 10, Moussa 30, Gimenez 63) bt Sparta Prague 2 (Rrahmani 43, Beelen 79-og).
Juventus 2 (Vlahovic 53, McKennie 75) bt Manchester City 0; Stuttgart 5 (Stiller 25, Millot 53, Fuehrich 61, Vagnoman 66, Keitel 76) bt Young Boys 1 (Lakomy 6).

Manush and Diya take home the titles

Sports Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Manush Shah of RBI denied Ankur Bhattacharjee a double as he claimed his maiden senior title in the UTT National-ranking table tennis tournament on Thursday. Manush overcame a spirited challenge from Ankur 11-2, 4-11, 11-7, 8-11, 11-8, 13-11 in men's final.

RBI's Diya Chitale came back from behind to down Swastika Ghosh (AAI) 8-11, 11-5, 11-8, 11-8, 11-7 in the women's final.

The results: Men: Final: Manush Shah (RBI) bt Ankur Bhattacharjee (PSPB) 11-2, 4-11, 11-7, 8-11, 11-8, 13-11. **Semifinals:** Ankur bt Akash Pal (RSPB) 11-5, 11-8, 5-11, 11-8, 11-8; Manush bt Manav Thakkar (PSPB) 10-12, 11-7, 13-10, 8-11, 6-11, 11-7, 11-7. **Women: Final:** Diya Chitale (RBI) bt Swastika Ghosh (AAI) 8-11, 11-5, 11-8, 11-8, 11-7. **Semifinals:** Diya Chitale (RBI) bt Sutirtha Mukherjee (RSPB) 12-10, 3-11, 6-11, 11-4, 8-11, 14-12, 12-10. **U-19: Boys: Final:** Ankur bt Kushal Chopda (Mah) 11-6, 11-5, 11-7, 11-9; **Semifinals:** Ankur bt Punit Biswas (Ben) 11-6, 13-11, 8-11, 11-7; Kushal bt Priyanuj Bhattacharyya (Asm) 5-11, 6-11, 12-10, 11-6. **Girls: Final:** Syndrela Das (Ben) bt Ananya Chande (Mah) 11-8, 13-11, 11-5, 8-11, 9-11, 11-4; **Semifinals:** Syndrela bt Pritha Vartikar (Mah) 10-12, 11-1, 11-7, 12-10; Ananya bt Ananya Muralidharan (TN) 14-12, 11-5, 14-12.

High Performance Centre for badminton inaugurated in Bhubaneswar

K. Keerthivasan
BHUBANESWAR

An impressive shuttle cock-inspired design of the High-Performance Centre inside the Kalinga Stadium Complex here catches one's eyes as you walk past the Aquatic Centre.

Named 'Shuttle by Dalmia Bharat', the Dalmia Bharat-Gopichand High Performance Centre for badminton here was the cynosure of attention on Thursday evening when it was inaugurated by Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Himanta Biswa Sharma, the Assam Chief Minister and also the president of Badminton Associaton of India.

Grand beginning: The dignitaries in front of the High Performance Centre.

The centre, a three-way collaboration between the Odisha Government, Pullela Gopichand Foundation and the Dalmia Bharat Group, spans an indoor area of 77,000 sq.ft. housing eight courts with residential and other facilities for young players.

Speaking at the function, Pullela Gopichand, chief National badminton coach said the centre is not just made of brick and mortar.

Aspiration

"This is not just a beautiful building. It's an aspiration for a lot of young players. The thousands of players who are playing the sport, it remains a symbol of a badminton court or a shuttle cock in building a champion for the future."

Puneet Dalmia, managing director and CEO of Dalmia by Bharat Ltd., said the academy will train 50 players (36 boys and 14 girls) in a holistic manner which will focus on mental toughness, inner calmness and physical fitness.

"If India wins the bid to host the 2036 Olympic Games, we are confident that one player from our centre will win a medal," he added.

Among those in attendance were Indian doubles badminton stars Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, P. Kashyap, Gautam Dalmia, MD of Dalmia by Bharat Ltd., Suryabanshi Suraj, Sports Minister, Government of Odisha and Bhaskar Jothi Sharma, principal secretary of Sports Department, Government of Odish.

(The writer was in Bhubaneswar on the invitation of Dalmia by Bharat)

It's Bourbonaire vs. Positano in Bangalore 2000 Guineas

BENGALURU: Bourbonaire and Positano may fight out the finish of the Bangalore 2000 Guineas (1,600m), the chief event of the races to be held here on Friday (Dec. 13). There will be no false rails.

1 ALYDAR PLATE (1,100m), 2-y-o only, (Terms), 2-00 p.m.: 1. Coldplay (6) Antony 57, 2. Most And More (1) Darshan 57, 3. Blind Faith (2) Suraj 55.5, 4. Eleanora (4) Yash 55.5, 5. Higgs Boson (3) M. Rajesh K 55.5 and 6. Lena (5) Ashhad Asbar 55.5.
1. COLDPLAY, 2. BLIND FAITH

2 TUNGABHADRA PLATE (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 2-30: 1. Extraordinary (7) A. Ramu 62, 2. Star Comet (8) Rayan 61, 3. Ultimate Striker (3) K. Suhas 57.5, 4. Spirit Dancer (5) P. Siddaraju 57, 5. The Golden Dream (1) R. Pradeep 56.5, 6. Mega Success (9) Jagadeesh 55, 7. Infinite Spirit (4) Likith Appu 54.5, 8. Ice Storm (2) M. Rajesh K 52.5 and 9. Sacred Creator (6) Angad 51.5.
1. STAR COMET, 2. MEGA SUCCESS, 3. THE GOLDEN DREAM

3 TETRARCH PLATE (DIV. II), (1,100m), rated 20 to 45, 3-00: 1. Martha (1) Akshay K 60, 2. Stentorian (4) C. Hemanth 60, 3. Sling Shot (7) Likith Appu 59.5, 4. Anchorage (5) P. Siddaraju 59, 5. LG's Script (8) Shreyas S 59, 6. Days Date (2) Arvind K 58.5, 7. Capri Girl (10) Angad 58, 8. Domina (13) Srinath 58, 9. Tropical Mist (11) Laxman S 58, 10. Elveden (6) Saddam H 57.5, 11. Feel Of Hope (9) R. Pradeep 57.5, 12. Joyful Spirit (3) A. Ramu 57 and 13. Glaze (12) M. Rajesh K 55.5.
1. MARTHA, 2. DOMINA, 3. DAYS DATE

4 B.B.M.P. CUP (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 3-30: 1. Stellantis (7) Trevor 62.5, 2. N R I Ace (1) Arshad 61, 3. Free To Play (5) Arvind K 60.5, 4. Maple Leaf (2) Antony 58.5, 5. Dynamic Force (4) Srinath 58, 6. IL Volo (3) Angad 58, 7. Knotty Patton (8) Jagadeesh 53 and 8. Star Admiral (6) Rayan 53.
1. STELLANTIS, 2. DYNAMIC FORCE, 3. MAPLE LEAF

5 BANGALORE 2000 GUINEAS (1,600m), 3-y-o only, (Terms), 4-00: 1. Bournonaire (9) Suraj 57, 2. Don Carlos (4) Trevor 57, 3. La Mcqueen (1) Antony 57, 4. Mandarino (3) L.A. Rozario 57, 5. Mayne Magic (8) P. Sai Kumar 57, 6. Mighty Sparrow (7) G. Vivek 57, 7. Positano (2) Akshay K 57, 8. Ranquelino (5) Sandesh 57 and 9. Verrazzano (6) Yash 57.
1. BOURBONAIRE, 2. POSITANO, 3. MANDARINO

6 TETRARCH PLATE (DIV. I), (1,100m), rated 20 to 45, 4-30: 1. Priceless Prince (4) Suraj 61.5, 2. Chisox (12) Anish Anamo 60.5, 3. Immortal Beauty (6) M. Prabhakaran 60, 4. Breeze Bluster (1) Shreyas S 59.5, 5. Schafenberg (14) P. Mani 59.5, 6. Lockheed (11) Srinath 58.5, 7. True Punch (7) C. Hemanth 58.5, 8. Cool Water (10) L.A. Rozario 58, 9. Rieko (5) Sandesh 58, 10. Aditya (8) A. Ramu 55, 11. N R I Gold (9) Tauseef 55, 12. Striking Fortune (3) P. Siddaraju 55, 13. Invincible (2) M. Rajesh K 54 and 14. Meghann (13) Laxman S 54.
1. RIEKO, 2. LOCKHEED, 3. PRICELESS PRINCE

7 B.B.M.P. CUP (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 5-00: 1. Art Gallery (7) Antony 60, 2. Bharat (3) G. Vivek 58, 3. Lauterbrunnen (1) Angad 58, 4. N R I Touch (8) Arshad 57, 5. Instructor (4) R. Pradeep 55.5, 6. Tesorino (5) Trevor 55.5, 7. Eastern Gold (6) Akshay K 55 and 8. Sira (2) Sandesh 55.
1. EASTER GOLD, 3. BHARAT, 3. SIRA

Day's best: **MARTHA**
Double: **RIEKO – EASTERN GOLD**
Jkt: 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7; Tr (i) 2, 3 and 4; (ii): 5, 6 and 7.